Men-at-Arms

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Armies of the Russo-Polish War 1919–21

Nigel Thomas PhD • Illustrated by Adam Hook

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Series editor Martin Windrow

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ARMIES OF THE RUSSO-POLISH WAR 1919–21

2nd Lt Zdzisław Niesiołowski, photographed in 1919 wearing the M1917 Polish Armed Forces (PSZ) cavalry uniform. The following year he would fight as a lieutenant with Maj Stefan Dembinski's 9th Lancers (part of 7th Cav Bde, 1st Cav Div), which charged the Bolshevik *Konarmiya* at Komarów on 31 August 1920 in the greatest cavalry battle since 1813. His *maciejowka* cap shows the officers' silver rosette and the crimson branch-colour welt around the band immediately below it; but the eagle badge is non-standard, the chin cords are against regulations, and the commemorative badge visible on the right side is unofficial. He wears an Austro-Hungarian style cavalry overcoat with black lambswool collar, and M1917 service-dress trefoil silver wire shoulder straps with crimson underlay. (Polish Institute & Sikorski Museum, London)

THE WAR IN CONTEXT

The Armistice of 11 November 1918, which ended the Great War between Germany and the Entente (Allied) powers on the Western Front, was followed by chaotic armed struggles in Central and Eastern Europe. By 1921 these had radically redrawn the maps of several former Russian and Austro-Hungarian imperial possessions, but there is space here for only the briefest summary.

On 10 July 1918 the Soviet Russian Republic was renamed the **Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR)**, under the Bolshevik leader Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov ('Lenin'). Lenin's priority was for his Red Army to consolidate Soviet power around Moscow, and then to eliminate the surrounding White Russian armies – a task not finally completed until 1922. Even while the Civil War raged, however, Lenin aimed to absorb all the former regions of the Russian Empire by establishing communist 'Soviet Socialist Republic' (SSR) puppet regimes, e.g. the Lithuanian-Byelorussian (Belarusian) SSR on 28 February 1919; the Ukrainian SSR on 10 March 1919; and the Polish Revolutionary Committee on 27 July 1920. Finally, Lenin planned to export the Bolshevik Revolution across Europe.

Lenin's strategy set the Bolsheviks on a collision course with the **Second Polish Republic**, established on 11 November 1918 from Russian or 'Congress' Poland (though a 'Kingdom of Poland' had been declared on 5 November 1916 by German occupation forces) and the former Austrian Kingdom of Galicia. This emerging Polish state was soon joined by three more regions: German Posen (Poznań) or 'Greater Poland' province, on 16 February 1919 following the Polish rebellion of 27 December 1918; the Russian Białystok region, also in February 1919; and German West Prussia, awarded to Poland by the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919.

The (eastern, ex-Russian) **Ukrainian People's Republic (UNR)**, ruled from 14 December 1918 by Symon Petliura's 'Directory' government based in Kyiv (Kiev), was threatened by both Red and White Russian forces; it concluded an anti-Russian alliance with Poland on 21 April 1920, but was defeated by Bolshevik forces on 21 November 1920. Meanwhile Józef Piłsudski, the Polish head of state, was determined to annex the so-called Eastern Borderlands (*Pol,* Kresy) comprising Ukrainian-controlled Eastern Galicia and Volhynia, Eastern Lithuania and Western Belarus, all of which had significant Polish populations. The (ex-Austrian) **Western Ukrainian People's Republic (ZUNR)**, established on 1 November 1918 in Eastern Galicia, became the **Western UNR Region (ZOUNR)** on 22 January 1919, but was defeated by Poland on 17 July 1919.

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Józef Piłsudski (seated centre, second from right, with hands folded on sword hilt) in 1919. Left of him, in front of the pale-uniformed French staff officer, sits Gen Paul Henrys, head of the 400-strong French military mission to Poland. Piłsudski wears his M1915 field-grey uniform (see Plate A1); the other Polish officers have M1917 PSZ uniforms with trefoil shoulder straps. The French mission, from 1 April 1919 to 30 September 1920, helped train the Polish General Staff, and initiated a strong French military influence that lasted until September 1939. (Polish Institute & Sikorski Museum, London)

The **Belarusian People's Republic (BNR)** declared independence on 25 March 1918, but was overthrown on 5 January 1919 by the Bolsheviks, who had declared a Belarusian (later Lithuanian-Byelorussian) SSR on 1 January 1919; however, BNR troops fought for Poland from 9 June to 30 September 1920. Polish forces proclaimed the Central Lithuanian Republic in Eastern Lithuania on 12 October 1920, and Poland annexed it on 24 March 1922.[1]

The **Russo-Polish War** broke out on 16 February 1919, and ended in Poland's favour with the Treaty of Riga on 18 March 1921. Its climax was the Polish victory at the Battle of Warsaw in August 1920, the most significant battle of the post-Great War period. It preserved the Polish state and discouraged further Bolshevik military adventures in Central and Eastern Europe, thereby delaying the arrival of communism until 1944; but it also left Poland with Eastern Borderlands with large Belarusian and Ukrainian populations – a permanent source of dispute with the Soviet Union.

POLISH MILITARY ORGANIZATION

(For reasons of space, abbreviations are widely used in the text that follows.) The first independent Polish military units were organized from 30 Oct 1918 by the Regency Council of the Kingdom of Poland, the only functioning Polish government. The Polish Army *(Wojsko Polskie)* was formed on 11 Nov 1918, and included the Army Air Service *(Wojska Lotnicze)* and Navy *(Marynarka Wojenna)*, established on 28 Nov 1918. Józef Piłsudski was immediately appointed Commander-in-Chief *(Komendant głowny)* of the armed forces, and, on 22 Nov, Provisional Head of State *(Tymczasowy Naczelnik Państwa)*, confirmed on 20 Feb 1919. The Chief of General Staff of the Polish Army *(Szef Sztabu Generalnego Wojska Polskiego)* was MajGen Tadeusz Rozwadowski from 28 Oct 1918; LtGen Stanisław Szeptycki, 10 Nov 1918; MajGen Stansisław Haller, 7 Feb 1919; and LtGen Tadeusz Rozwadowski from 22 July 1920. The CGS reported to the Minister of Military Affairs, always an Army officer.

Initially the Polish Army was an untidy fusion of seven contingents, each with different training, traditions and uniforms:

(1) 9,000 volunteers in 1st–3rd Inf Regts of the Polish Armed Forces (*Polskie Siły Zbrojne* – PSZ; *Ger,* Polnische Wehrmacht), which had been formed on 10 Apr 1917 in Congress Poland; also 15,000 from the Austro-Hungarian Polish Legions *(Legiony Polskie)*.

(2) 75,000 Poles from I, X & XI Corps Districts of the AH Common Army (Gemeinsame Armee) and Austrian Territorial Army (Landwehr).

(3) About 30,000 volunteers organized by the Regency Council from the clandestine Polish Military Organization (*Polska Organizacja Wojskowa* – POW), and formed into 12 District Inf Regiments.

(4) About 55,000 members of Polish I–III Corps, 4th & 5th Rifle Divs and the 400-strong Murmansk Group, who had been serving in the Russian Army since Oct 1914.

1 For further explanation of the fragmentation of Ukraine, 1918–21, and a useful map, see MAA 412 *Ukrainian Armies 1914–55.*

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(5) 87,000 men from the German Army's II, V, VI, XVII & XX Corps; many joined the 100,000-strong Greater Poland Army *(Wojska Wielkopolska)* formed on 2 Jan 1919, and transferred to the Polish Army on 13 November.

(6) 68,500 members of Gen Józef Haller de Hallenburg's Polish Army in France *(Armia Polska we Francji)*, better known as the 'Blue Army' *(Błękitna Armia)*. Formed on 4 June 1917 under French command, this was shipped to Poland during Apr–June 1919, and was absorbed into the Polish Army on 1 September.

(7) About 2,000 volunteer militiamen of the Lithuanian & Belarusian Self-Defence Force *(Samoobrana Litwy i Białorusi)*, formed in Oct 1918 by MajGen Władysław Wejtko from Polish civilians in Eastern Lithuania and Western Belarus. All had transferred into the new army's 1st Lithuanian-Belarusian Div by 7 Mar 1919.

In Feb 1919, however, there were only 110,000 volunteers to defend former Congress Poland, the Białystok region and Western Galicia. The Army Law of 26 Feb 1919 reorganized the Army into five military districts: Kraków, Łódź, Lublin, Kielce and Warsaw. On 15 Jan 1921 these would be expanded into ten corps districts: I (Warsaw), II (Lublin), III (Grodno), IV (Łódź), V (Kraków), VI (Lwów; *Ukr,* Lviv), VII (Poznań), VIII (Toruń), IX (Brześć nad Bugiem; *Bel,* Brest) and X (Przemyśl). On 7 Mar 1919 conscription was introduced; this, with the repatriation of the Greater Poland and Blue Armies, brought Polish strength to 600,000 men.

Gen Józef Haller de Hallenburg served in the Polish Legions in 1914–18 and the Polish Corps in Russia in 1918, and commanded the Polish Army in France 1918–19. Returning to Poland in May 1919, he became Inspector-General of the Volunteer Army in July 1920, and the following month he commanded Northern Front in the Battle of Warsaw. Exhibiting his usual disregard for regulations, Haller is wearing the M1919 khaki uniform with a crumpled M1919 *rogatywka* without rank stars, and a fur collar and lining to his M1919 greatcoat. The decorations just visible on his tunic are the *Virtuti Militari* Silver Cross and the Military Cross of Valour (3 awards). (Author's collection)

Branches, units and brigades

The 11 main branches of service were:

General Staff

Infantry (regular) 88 regiments:[2]

6 Legion Inf (1–6, ex-Polish Legions); plus 3 Leg Inf, ex-PSZ (7–9; ex-1–3).

13 ex-District Inf (21–28, 32–36).

9 Inf, ex-AH Common Army (11–18, 37); 2 Inf, ex-Austrian Landwehr (10 & 20); 4 Inf, ex-Lwów Rifles (19, 38–40; ex-Skrzyński, 1–3).

6 Inf, ex-Polish Corps in Russia (29–31, 82, 84, 2 Siberian; ex-13–15, 1–3 Polish Rifles).

15 Inf, ex-French Army (42 & 43, 44–54 Borderland Rifles, 71–72; ex-1 Training, 1–6 Polish Rifles, 3 Training, 8–12, 20 & 21 Polish Rifles).

17 Greater Poland Inf (55–62, 63 Toruń, 64 Grudziadz, 65 Starogard, 66 Kashubian, 67–70, 75; ex-1–8 Greater Poland Rifles; Toruń, Grudziadz, Starogard & Kashubian Rifles; 9–12, 155, 159, 167 Greater Poland Rifles).

9 Inf, ex-Lithuanian & Belarusian Self-Defence Force (41, 76–81, Wilno & Minsk); ex-1st Suwalki, Lida, Kovno, Slutsk, Białystok, Nowogródek & Grodno Rifles.

4 Highland Rifles (1, ex-AH Common Army; 2, ex-Landwehr; 3 & 4, ex-2 Training, 19 Polish Rifles in France).

2 For abbreviations, see page 2. Style throughout the listings in this book is as follows: Number & category of regts, e.g. '6 Legion' = six Legion regiments; (numbering of regts, e.g. '1–6' = designated 1st to 6th Legion Regts, inclusive; *or* '2, 4' = numbered 2nd & 4th Regts); origins of units, e.g. 'ex-Polish Legions' = former Polish Legions raised by Austria-Hungary; *or*, e.g. 'ex-2, 4' = redesignation of/ raised from former 2nd & 4th Regts in this category.

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Infantry (2nd line) 60 regiments, reinforcing regular regiments:

29 Reserve regts (1 GP later 155 then 73, 2 GP later 159 then 74, 101–106, 109, 111, 128, 131, 132, 134, 138, 140, 142; 143–145 Borderland Rifles; 149–151, 157, 163, 164, 166–168).

26 Volunteer regts (201, 202 (ex-1 Warsaw), 204–208, 213, 216, 218, 219, 221–226, 230, 236, 238–240, 257, 259, 262, 264); and 5 Vol Res regts (357, 359, 361–363).

The 47 **Infantry Brigades** each had 1–3 regiments and were numbered: I–VI Legion, VII–XXVI, XXVII–XXX (I–IV GP), XXXI, XXXII, XXXIII & XXXIV (IV & V GP), XXXV, XXXVI, XXXVII–XL (I–IV LB), XLI, XLII, Siberian, I & VII Reserve, I & II Volunteer.

Cavalry (regular) 41 regiments:

3 of Light Horse (1 'Józef Piłsudski', ex-1 Lancers, & 2, ex-2 Lancers, both ex-Polish Legions; 3, ex-201 Vol Lt Horse).

29 of Lancers: ex-Polish Corps in Russia (1–6, 12, 14, 19); ex-Polish Legions (7 (ex- 3), 9, 11 Legion (ex-4)); ex-AH Common Army (8, 20 (ex-108

Table 1: Polish Army selected battle order, 5 January 1919–23 March 1920

(**Note**: > = 'subsequently under command of'; / = 'later redesignated or re-formed as')

Volhynian Front (30 Mar–2 June 1919): *3 Leg Inf Div* (V Leg Inf Bde – 7, 8 Leg Inf Regts; VI Leg Inf Bde – 9 Leg Inf, 23 Inf Regts); Bug Group; Chelm Group. > Galician-Volhynian Front.

Galician-Volhynian Front (29 May–27 July 1919): *3 Leg Inf Div; 4 Inf Div* (VII Leg Inf Bde – 10, 14 Inf Regts; VIII Inf Bde – 18, 37 Inf Regts); *5 Inf Div* (IX Inf Bde – 38, 39 Inf Regts; X Inf Bde – 19, 40 Inf Regts); *10 Inf Div* (XIX Inf Bde – 30, 31 Inf Regts; XX Inf Bde – 28, 29 Inf Regts); *Sikorski Combined Inf Div;* Bug Group; III Air Group (6, 7 Sqns). > Galician Front & Volhynian Front.

Galician Front (27 July 1919–2 Jan 1920): *3 Leg, 5 & 10 Inf Divs; 6 Polish Rifle Div* (9–12 Polish Rifle Regts); *12 Inf Div* (XXIII Inf Bde – 51, 52 Borderland Rifles Regts; XXIV Inf Bde – 53, 54 Borderland Rifles Regts); 3 Cav Bde – 2, 14 Lancer Regts; III Air Group (5–7 Squadrons). > Podolian Front.

Podolian Front (2 Jan–23 Mar 1920): *5, 12 Inf Divs; 18 Inf Div* (XXXV Inf Bde – 42, 49 Inf Regts; XXXVI Inf Bde – 144,145 Inf Regts); III Air Group (5, 6 Sqns). > Sixth Army.

Volhynian Front (27 July 1919–23 Mar 1920): *4 Inf Div; 1 Polish Rifle Div* (1–3, 8 Polish Rifle Regts) / *13 Borderland Inf Div* (XXV Inf Bde – 43, 44 Inf Regts; XXVI Inf Bde – 45, 50 Inf Regts); Bug Group; 4 Cav Bde – 8, 9 Lancer Regts; 5 Cav Bde – 1 Lt Horse, 9 Lancer Regts; II Air Group – 581 Salmson, 2, 9 Sqns. > Second Army.

Podlesian Group (5 Jan 1919–9 June 1920): *9 Inf Div* (XVII Inf Bde – 15, 22 Inf Regts; XVIII Inf Bde – 34, 35 Inf Regts); *Pomeranian Rifle Div* (Toruń, Grudziadz, Starogard, Kashubian Rifle Regts) / *16 Pomeranian Inf Div* (XXXI Inf Bde – 63 Toruń, 64 Grudziadz Inf Regts; XXXII Inf Bde – 65 Starogard, 66 Kashubian Inf Regts); *Mountain Div* (1 Mtn Bde – 1, 2 Highland Rifle Regts; 2 Mtn Bde – 3, 4 Highland Rifle Regts); 2 Cav Bde – 3, 4, 10 Lancer Regiments. > Polesian Front.

Polesian Front (9 June–6 Aug 1920): 9, 16 Mtn Divisions. > Fourth Army.

Lithuanian-Belarusian Front (15 May 1919–23 Mar 1920): *1 Leg Inf Div* (I Leg Inf Bde – 1, 5 Leg Inf Regts; III Leg Inf Bde – 6 Leg Inf, 41 Inf Regts); *2 Leg Inf Div* (II Leg Inf Bde – 2, 3 Leg Inf Regts; IV Leg Inf Bde – 4 Leg Inf, 24 Inf Regts); *3 Leg Inf Div; 6 Inf Div* (XI Inf Bde – 12, 16 Inf Regts; XII Inf Bde – 17, 20 Inf Regts); *8 Inf Div* (XV Inf Bde – 13, 21 Inf Regts; XVI Inf Bde – 33, 36 Inf Regts); *9 Inf Div;*
1 GP Rifle Div (1 GP Rifle Bde – 1, 2 GP Rifle Regts; 2 GP Rifle Bde – 3, 4 GP Rifle Regts) / *14 Inf Div* (XXVII Inf Bde – 55, 56 GP Inf Regts; XXVIII Bde – 57, 58 GP Inf Regts); *1 LB Div* (32 Inf Regt; I LB Bde – Białystok, Lida Rifle Regts; II LB Bde – Kaunas, Grodno Rifle Regts; III LB Bde – Wilno, Minsk Rifle Regts); *2 LB Div* (III LB Bde – Lida, Kaunas Rifle Regts; IV LB Bde – Slutsk, Białystok Rifle Regts); 1 Cav Bde – 1 Lt Horse, 7, 11 Lancer Regts; 2 Cav Bde – 3, 4 & 10 Lancer Regts); 1 Tank Regt; I Air Group – 582 Salmson, 4, 8 Sqns; 1, 2 GP Squadrons. > First & Seventh Armies.

Anti-German Front (22 May 1919–23 Mar 1920): LB, Mazovian, GP, Silesian, South-Western and Pomeranian Fronts:

Lithuanian-Belarusian Front (15 May 1919–23 Mar 1920): *1 Leg Inf Div.*

Mazovian Front (22 May–19 Oct 1919): *3 Polish Rifle Div* (3 Training, 20, 21 Polish Rifle Regts); *8, 12 Inf Divs; Training Div;* IV Air Group – 3, 11 Sqns; I GP Air Group – 3 GP, 66 Breguet Squadrons.

Greater Poland Front (22 May 1919–23 Mar 1920): *1 GP Rifle / 14 GP Inf Div; 2 GP Rifle Div* (3 GP Rifle Bde – 5, 6 GP Rifle Regts; 4 GP Rifle Bde – 7, 8 GP Rifle Regts) / *15 GP Inf Div* (XXIX Inf Bde – 59, 60 GP Inf Regts; XXX Inf Bde – 61, 62 GP Inf Regts); *3 GP Rifle Div* (5 GP Rifle Bde – 9, 10 GP Rifle Regts; 6 GP Rifle Bde – 11, 12 GP Rifle Regts); *17 GP Inf Div* (XXXIII Inf Bde – 67, 68 GP Inf Regts; XXXIV Inf Bde – 69, 70 GP Inf Regts); *Pomeranian Rifle / 16 Pomeranian Rifle Div;* I GP Air Group – 3 GP, 66 Breguet Squadrons.

Pomeranian Front (19 Oct 1919–23 Mar 1920): *2 Polish Rifle Div* (3 Training, 4–6 Polish Rifle Regts) / *11 Carpathian Inf Div* (XXI Inf Bde – 46, 47 Inf Regts; XXII Inf Bde – 48, 49 Inf Regts); *2 GP Rifle / 15 Inf Div; Pomeranian Rifle / 16 Pomeranian Inf Div;* Pruszyński Group; 5 Cavalry Bde – 1, 9 Lancer Regiments.

Silesian Front (22 May–15 June 1919): 1 Bitom Rifle Regiment. > South-Western Front.

Cieszyn Front (22 May–15 June 1919): 6 Inf Div. > South-Western Front.

South-Western Front (15 June 1919–23 Mar 1920): *1 Polish Rifle / 13 Borderland Inf Div; 2 Polish Rifle / 11 Carpathian Inf Div; 6 Inf Div; 7 Inf Div* (XIII Inf Bde – 25, 26 Inf Regts; XIV Inf Bde – 11, 27 Inf Regts); 1 Bitom Rifle Regt; V Air Group – 3, 39, 59 Squadrons.

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Reserve), 21); ex-LB Self-Defence Force (Grodno, 10, 13 (ex-Wilno Lancers), 23 (ex-Grodno Lancers); Greater Poland (15 (ex-1), 16 (ex-2), 17 (ex-3), 18 Pomeranian (ex-4), 25 (ex-115 Res), 26 (ex-215); 1 Tartar Cav; 3 ex-Vol Lancers (22 (ex-209), 24 (ex-214), 27 (ex-203)).

9 of Mounted Rifles: ex-French Army (1 (ex-4), 2 (ex-1), 4 (ex-2), 6); ex-Polish Corps in Russia (4, 8); Greater Poland (7 (ex-5); ex-LB Self-Defence Force (3 (ex-210 Vol); and of mixed origins, 5 & 9.

Cavalry (2nd line) 10 cavalry regiments: 2 Res (108 & 115); 8 Vol (Lt Horse: 201; Lancers: 203, 208, 209, 211, 212, 214 & 215).

A Polish cavalry MG crew practise firing a US M1895/14 Colt 6mm 'potato digger' at Miłosna, August 1920, while a second crew await their turn; each regiment had a machine-gun squadron. This weapon was used by the Tsarist Russian Army in the Great War, and the uniforms suggest troops from the Polish Corps in Russia. Details visible under magnification include M1919 dark red cavalry collar patches with single-zigzag braid, and M1919 khaki field caps; the staff sergeant holding the ammo box has a Polish cap eagle, and M1917 PSZ shoulder straps with silver rank braid and a red regimental numeral '1'. (Author's collection)

The 10 **Cavalry Bdes**, each with 2 or 3 regiments, were designated I–IX and Volunteer. They were supplemented by 4 temporary brigades: Jaworski, Dziewicki and East Lithuania Brigades, and Lower Vistula Group.

Artillery 34 field regiments with the brigade number:

1 Legion (ex-1 Leg Art), 2 Leg (ex-7, 10), 3 Leg (ex-2, 9), 4 (ex-3, 11), 5 (ex-4), 6 (ex-1, 2 Mtn Art), 7, 8–11, 12–13 (ex-French 6, 1), 14 & 15 GP (ex-3, 1 GP), 16 Pomeranian, 17 GP (ex-2 GP), 18 (ex-French 7, ex-113 Res), 19–20 (ex-1 & 2 LB), 21, 22 (ex-French 2), 23 (ex-214 Vol), 29 (ex-216 Vol), 201 & 205 Vol, 1 Mtn (21).

17 heavy regiments totalling 24 battalions: 1–10, 12–18. Later, 19 bns: I/2 Legion, 3, I/4, 5, I/6, 7, 8, I/9, II/9, 10–12, I/14 (ex-1 GP), 14, II/15 (ex-2 GP), 16–18, 21.

9 horse artillery battalions: 1–6, 7 (GP), 8–9.

There were 21 **Artillery Bdes**, allocated to infantry divisions and carrying their numbers: I–III Leg, IV–XIII, XIV, XV (ex-I, II GP), XVI, XVII (ex-III GP), XVIII–XXI.

Armour 1st Tank Regt; Railway Troops (armd trains numbered 1–26 in Dec 1920); 6 armd car bns (1, 3–5, 8 & 9).

Air Service 21 squadrons (1–11; 12–15 (1–4 GP); 39, 59 & 66 Breguet; 580–582 Salmson). These formed 6 Air Groups, numbered I–V & I GP. From 13 Apr 1920 there were 20 sqns: 7, 13, 15 & 19 Fighter; 21 Ground-Attack; 1–6, 8–12, 14, 16–18 Recce. These formed 6 Air Wings, numbered I–V & VII.

Engineers 23 sapper battalions, numbered I–XXI, Vol, XXIII, allocated to infantry divisions and carrying their numbers. 9 bns were grouped administratively into 2 Engineer (1920, Sapper) Regts: 1 (I, II, VII & XVIII Bns, later VIII, XVIII & XXVIII); 2 (III, XIII & XVII Bns). 2 Railway Eng Bns (5 & 10).

Signals Telegraph and heavy telegraph companies allocated to infantry divisions carried the divisional number.

Military Border Guard (WSG) 6 regts (1–6) and 2 independent bns (1 & 3). Disbanded 1920, replaced by Border Rifles (SG).

Military Police MP platoons allocated to infantry divisions.

Transport Service 9 Res Transport Sqns (companies) numbered 1–9.

Medical Service 7 Res Medical Cos numbered I–VII.

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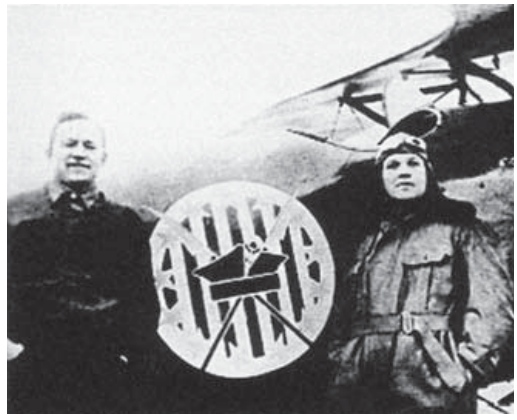

LEFT **Renault FT-17 light tanks of the Polish 1st Tank Regiment. The crews wear French M1919 tank-crew helmets with a brown leather pad replacing the front peak, and motor transport drivers' black leather coats with black cloth collars; they also had dark blue berets. The officer at right belongs to the French Army cadre. (Author's collection)**

RIGHT **The Kościusko Squadron was formed in December 1919 from the Polish 7th Air Sqn, with nine US volunteer pilots plus Polish personnel. Named after Tadeusz Kościusko, the legendary patriot who served in the American Continental Army 1776–83 before leading Poland's doomed anti-Russian uprising in November 1794, it took as its insignia his red cap on crossed scythes, on American red and white stripes and blue stars. The squadron fought over Kyiv in April 1920, and Lviv, Warsaw and Komarów that August. In all, 21 American pilots served with the unit; here, Capt Merian C. Cooper (left) and the squadron commander, Maj Cedric Fauntleroy, pose beside an Albatros D.III fighter. (Author's collection)**

Divisions

The units were grouped into 22 infantry divisions (month formed; / = redesignated):

1 Legion, 2 Leg (both formed Feb 1919); 3 Leg, 4, Lwów (all Apr 1919); 5, 6, 7, 8 Inf Divs, (all May 1919); 9 (June 1919); 4 Polish Rifle (Russia) (Dec 1917–May 1918 / 10 Inf, June 1919); 2 Polish Rifle (France) (Apr 1919 / 11 Inf, Sept 1919); 6 Polish Rifle (France) (Feb 1919 / 12 Inf, Sept 1919); 1 Polish Rifle (France) (June 1919 / 13 Borderland Inf, Dec 1919); 1 Greater Poland Rifle (Feb 1919 / 14 GP Inf, Dec 1919); 2 GP Rifle (Apr 1919 / 15 GP Inf, Feb 1920); 4 GP Rifle (July 1919 / Pomeranian Rifle, Aug 1919 / 16 Pomn Inf, Mar 1920); 3 GP Rifle (June 1919 / 17 GP Inf, Feb 1920); 3 Polish Rifle (France) (1919 / 18 Inf, Jan 1920); 1 Lithuanian–Belarusian (Nov 1918), 2 LB (July 1919); Mountain Div (Feb 1920 / 21 Inf, Aug 1920); Volunteer (Feb–Nov 1920). The 27th Div, formed in October 1920, did not see combat.

There were 2 cavalry divisions: Cavalry (Apr–June 1920 / 1 Cav, July 1920); and Northern Cavalry (July 1920 / 2 Cav, Sept 1920). The East Lithuania Cav Div (Oct 1920) was formed too late to see combat.

The Central Lithuanian Army *(Wojska Litwy Środkowej)* comprised the 1st and 2nd Lithuanian-Belarusian Inf Divs and the Cavalry Division.

Divisional and unit composition

A Polish infantry division comprised an HQ; HQ troops (HQ company, HQ cavalry platoon, cav recce sqn); 2 inf bdes (each 2 regts); artillery bde (field regt and heavy bn); sapper bn, signal co, and transport. Average divisional strength in 1919 was as low as 2,000, but the authorized level of 20,000 was often attained in mid-1920.

An infantry regiment was 3,259 strong, with an HQ; an 89-man MG company, a 208-strong technical (sapper) co; a 124-man signals ptn; and three rifle bns: I (1st–4th Rifle Cos, 1st MG Co); II (5th–8th Rifle, 2nd MG Cos); and III (9th–12th Rifle, 3rd MG Companies). A rifle company had three platoons, each with four sections. Within a 990-strong artillery brigade the field regt had 3 bns, each with 3 six-gun batteries. A heavy artillery regt had 1–3 bns, each with 2 howitzer and 1 cannon batteries.

A cavalry division had an HQ; HQ troops including 3–4 horse art btys; and 2–3 cavalry bdes, each with 2–3 cav regts and a horse art bn (1–4 batteries). A cavalry regt had an HQ; MG, technical and bicycle sqns (cos) and a signals ptn; and 1st–4th Cav Sqns, each with three platoons.

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Table 2: Polish Army selected battle order, 23 March–12 October 1920

Allocation of armies to fronts:
Northern Front (17 May 1920) / Szeptycki Front (5 July 1920) / Northern Front (6–23 Aug 1920):
Seventh Army (17 May–15 June 1920); Fourth Army (17 May–8 Aug 1920); First Army (17 May–23 Aug 1920); Reserve Army (25 May–15 June 1920); Second Army (6–16 Aug 1920); Fifth Army (6–23 Aug 1920).
Central Front (28 May 1920) / 1st Ukrainian Front (25 June 1920) / Rydz-Śmigly Front (9 July 1920) / South-East Front (6 Aug 1920) / Central Front 7–15 Aug 1920) / South-East Front (16–23 Aug 1920):
Sixth Army (28 May–10 Aug 1920); Third Army (28 May–23 Aug 1920); Second Army (19 June–6 Aug 1920 & 18–23 Aug 1920); Fourth Army (4–23 Aug 1920).
Southern Front (6 Aug–4 Sept 1920):
Sixth Army (10 Aug–6 Sept 1920); Ukrainian Army (10 Aug–6 Sept 1920).

Allocation of formations to armies:
First Army (7 Mar–1 Sept 1920): *1 LB*, *8 Inf Divs* (Mar–Sept); *2 LB, 5 Inf Divs* (June–July); *10 Inf, 11 Carpathian Inf Divs* (June–Aug); *17 GP Inf Div* (July); *15 GP Inf Div* (Aug); VII Reserve Bde – 155, 159 GP Inf, 167 Bitom Rifle Regts (June–Sept); IV Air Wing – 1, 4, 11, 18 Recce Squadrons.

Second Army (7 Mar–28 May; 19 June–16 Aug; 18 Aug–12 Oct 1920): *13 Borderland 15 GP Inf Divs* (Apr–May); *3 Leg Inf Div* (June–Aug & Aug–Oct); *6 Inf Div* (June–Aug); *2 Leg Inf, 4 Inf Div* (Aug); *1 Leg Inf*; *1 LB Div* (Aug–Oct); *17 GP Inf*; *Vol Div* (I Vol Bde – 201, 205 Vol Inf Regts; II Vol Bde – 101, 202 Vol Inf Regts) (Sept–Oct); *21 Inf Div* (41 Inf Bde – 1, 2 Highland Rifle Regts; 42 Inf Bde – 3, 4 Highland Rifle Regts) (Aug–Oct); X Inf Bde (June–Oct); VII Reserve; Siberian Bde – 1, 2 Polish Rifle Regts (Sept–Oct); *1 Cav Div* (4 Cav Bde – 8, 9 Lancer Regts, later 3, 7 & 16 Lancer Regts; 2 Cav Bde – 3, 4 & 10 Lancer Regts) (June–Sept); II Air Wing – 7, 19 Fighter, 2, 9 & 14 Recce Sqns (Apr–Aug); 17 Recce Sqn (Aug); *Ukrainian 6 Rifle Div* (Apr–May 1920).

Third Army (19 Apr–23 Sept; 4 Oct–9 Dec 1920): 7 Cav Bde – 1 Lt Horse, 17 Lancer Regts (Apr–July); *1 Leg Inf Div* (Apr–Aug); *4 Inf Div* (Apr–Aug, Oct); *7 Inf Div* (Apr–Oct); *3 Leg Inf Div* (Aug); *2 Leg Inf, 9, 10 & 18 Inf Divs* (Sep–Oct); *1 LB, 17 GP Inf Divs* (Oct); I Reserve Bde – 101, 105 & 106 Res Inf Regts (Oct); Siberian Inf Bde (Oct); *Cavalry Div* (4 Cav Bde; 5 Cav Bde – 1–9 Lancer Regts) (Apr–Aug); 3 Cav Bde – 2, 14 Lancer Regts (Apr); 4 Cav Bde (Aug–Sept); Vol Cav Bde – 1 Mtd Rifles, 212 Vol Lancer Regts (Aug–Sept); V Air Wing – 3, 16 & 17 Recce Sqns (Apr–Aug); 2, 14 Recce, 21 Ground-Attack Sqns (Aug–Sept); *Ukrainian 6 Rifle Div* (May–Aug); *Belarusian People's Army* (1–4 Inf Regts, Cav Regt, Art Bn) (June–Sept); 2x Orenburg Cossack Bdes (Sept–Oct); Free Cossack Bde (Apr–Oct 1920).

Fourth Army (7 March 1920–19 April 1921): *2 Leg Inf Div* (May–July 1920); *Rybak Group / Mtn Div* (May–Aug 1920); *9 Inf Div* (Mar–Aug 1920); *6 Inf Div* (May–June 1920); *14 GP Inf Div* (May–Oct 1920); *4 Inf Div* (July–Aug 1920); *15 GP Inf Div* (July–Aug & Sept–Oct 1920); *Mtn Div* (Aug 1920); *16 Pomeranian, 21 Inf Divs* (Aug–Oct 1920); *11 Carpathian Inf Div* (Sept–Oct 1920); VII Air Wing – 13, 19 Fighter, 10, 12 & 14 Recce Sqns (May–Aug 1920); 3, 10 Recce Sqns (Aug–Oct 1920).

Fifth Army (6–31 Aug 1920): *9, 10 & 11 Carpathian, 17 GP, 18 Inf Divs; Vol Div;* VII Reserve Bde (Aug–Sept); Siberian Inf Bde; *Northern Cav Div* (VIII Cav Bde – 2 Border, 108 Lancer, 115 GP Lancer Regts; IX Cav Bde – 1 Border, 203 Vol Lancer Regts; 201 Lt Horse Regt); 13 Fighter, 1, 12 Recce Squadrons.

Sixth Army (7 Mar 1920–1 June 1921): *12 Inf Div* (Mar–Oct 1920); *5 Inf Div* (Mar–June & July–Oct 1920); *13 Borderland Inf Div* (May–Oct 1920); *18 Inf Div* (Apr–Oct 1920); *6 Inf Div* (Aug–Oct 1920); *8 Inf Div* (Sept–Oct 1920); *1 Cav Div* (Aug–Oct 1920); *Northern / 2 Cav Div* (8 Cav Bde – 115 GP, 2, 108 Lancer Regts; 9 Cav Bde – 1 Lt Horse, 201, 203 Vol Lancer Regts) (Aug–Oct 1920); III Air Wing – 15 Fighter, 21 Ground-Attack, 5, 6 & 17 Recce Sqns; *Ukrainian 3 Rifle Div* (Apr–July 1920).

Seventh Army (7 Mar–26 June 1920): *6, 10 Inf Divs; 2 LB Div* (XXXIX Inf Bde – 76, 77 Inf Regts; XL Inf Bde – 78, 79 Inf Regts); I Air Wing – 8 Recce Squadron.

Reserve Army (25 May–15 June 1920): *5, 11 & 16 Inf Divs;* VII Reserve Bde – 155, 159 & 167 GP Inf Regiments.

East Lithuanian Army (16 Oct 1920–18 Mar 1921): *1 LB Div* (XXXVII Inf Bde – 80, 81 Inf Regts; XXXVIII Inf Bde – 85, 88 Inf Regts); *2 LB Div; Cav Div* (Vilnius Cav Bde – 13, 211 Lancer Regts; Grodno Cav Bde – Grodno, 10 Lancer Regts).

The 841-strong 1st Tank Regt, with 120x Renault FT-17 light tanks and 41 armoured cars, comprised 1st Bn (1st & 2nd Cos) and 3rd Bn (3rd, 6th & 7th Companies). Each company had an HQ Ptn, 3 tank ptns (5 tanks each) and a 9-tank support platoon.

Fronts and armies

Following Russian Tsarist and Red Army practice, Polish divisions were from Feb 1919 allocated to five army groups called 'fronts'. (See Tables 1 & 2, pages 6 & above, for basic orders of battle):

Volhynian Front, North-West Ukraine; redesignated Galician-Volhynian

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Front before splitting into the Galician Front and the Volhynian Front.

Galician Front, East Galicia and South-West Ukraine; later redesignated Podolian Front.

Podlesian Front, Northern Ukraine borders; redesignated Polesian Front.

Lithuanian-Belarusian Front, Eastern Lithuania and Western Belarus.

Anti-German Front, later divided into 6 separate fronts: Lithuanian-Belarusian Front; Mazovian Front, facing German E Prussia: Greater Poland Front, E Germany; Pomeranian Front, NE Germany; South-Western Front, originally divided into Silesian Front in SW Germany, and Cieszyn Front, facing the disputed Czechoslovak town of Cieszyn (*Czech,* Těšín).

With Poland facing a reduced German and an increased Russian threat in 1920, the Polish Army was reorganized from 23 Mar 1920 into seven, later eight Armies allocated from May 1920 to two Fronts: **Northern Front** (Gen Szeptycki), with First, Fourth, Seventh & Reserve Armies in Belarus; and **Central Front** (LtGen Listowski), with Second, Third & Sixth Armies in Ukraine.

The **Polish Navy** under RAdm Kazimierz Porębski (20 Mar 1919–1 Jan 1922) established the Pinsk Flotilla on 19 Apr 1919, fighting the Red Navy Dnieper Flotilla at Mazyr on 5 Mar 1920, Chernobyl on 27 Apr 1920, and Kiev in May 1920.

RUSSIAN MILITARY ORGANIZATION

The Workers' and Peasants' Red Army (*Raboche-Krest'yanskaya Krasnaya Armiya* – RKKA) was formed on 28 Jan 1918 from the paramilitary Red Guard, with the Workers' and Peasants' Red Air Force (*Raboche-Krest'yanskii Krasnyi Voenno-Vozdushnyi Flot* – RKKVF) as an integral element. The Red Navy (RKKF) was established on 11 Feb 1918. At first enlistment was voluntary, but conscription was introduced on 29 May 1918. Following the patriotic appeal by ex-Gen Brusilov on 30 May 1920, about 315,000 Tsarist officers were drafted into command positions, usually with the title of 'military specialist' *(Voyenni spetsialist* – abbreviated *Voyenspets),* but always supervised by a political officer *(Politicheskiy rukovoditel – Politruk)* of the same rank.

The Council of People's Commissars (abbreviated *Sovnarkom*) was chaired by Lenin. Leon Bronshtein ('Trotsky') controlled the armed forces from 13 Mar 1918 as People's Commissar for Army & Navy Affairs. On 2 Sept 1918 the Army & Navy High Command became the Revolutionary Military Council of the Republic *(Revvoyensovyet),* chaired by Trotsky. The first Red Army Commander-in-Chief *(Glavniy komanduyushchiy – Glavkom)* was the Latvian communist Joachim Vatsetis, appointed on 1 Sept 1918, but succeeded on 9 July 1919 by Sergey Kamenev.

During the Russian Civil War (7 Nov 1917–25 Oct 1922, and thus partly simultaneous with the events covered in this book) the Military Council struggled to maintain 11 Military Districts, each of which was intended to supply a Front: White Sea (Arctic), Far Eastern, Kiev (*Ukr,* Kyiv), Moscow, North Caucasus,

Leon Bronshtein ('Trotsky'), People's Commissar for Army & Navy Affairs, addressing troops in 1920. Trotsky wears a Russian M1910 peaked cap with M1918 red star, while his audience are wearing Tsarist caps, field shirts, breeches, and boots or puttees; note the military nurse immediately right of Trotsky. The absence of cap badges or other insignia suggests that these are former Imperial and Republican Army officers who volunteered as 'military specialists' after May 1920 in order to stem the Polish advance. As Stalin's most dangerous rival, Trotsky was deposed politically in January 1925, and eventually murdered in exile in Mexico City in August 1940. (Library of Congress)

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Table 3: Red Army selected battle order, 5 January 1919–12 October 1920

WESTERN FRONT (3 Oct 1918–13 Mar 1919; 18 June 1919–12 Oct 1920)

Sixteenth Army (11 Sept–14 Nov 1918) / Western Army (15 Nov 1918–12 Mar 1919) / Lithuanian-Belarusian Army (13 Mar–8 June 1919) / Sixteenth Army (9 June 1919–Oct 1920): Pskov/Lithuanian Rifle Div (Nov 1918–May 1919) / 4 Rifle Div (June 1919–Sept 1920); International / Western) Rifle Div (Nov 1918–June 1919) / 52 Rifle Div (June–Nov 1919); 17 Rifle Div (Nov 1918–Sept 1919; Sept 1919–Oct 1920); 8 Rifle Div (Jan 1919–Oct 1920); 53 Rifle Div (May–July 1919); Latvian Soviet Rifle Div (June 1919); 29 Rifle Div (Mar–May 1920); 57 Rifle Div (Mar–June 1920); 21 Rifle Div (May–June 1920); 2 Rifle Div (June–Aug & Oct 1920); 27 Rifle Div (June–Aug & Oct 1920); 48, 55 Rifle Divs (Aug–Sept 1920); 56 Rifle Div (Sept–Oct 1920); 16 Rifle Div (Oct 1920); 2 Border Guard Div (Nov 1918–July 1919).
Fifteenth Army (7 June 1919–4 Oct 1920): Lithuanian Rifle Div (May–June 1919); Latvian Soviet Rifle Div (June–Sept 1919); 10 Rifle Div (Mar–Sept 1920); 11 Rifle Div (June 1919–Oct 1920); 17 Rifle Div (Sept 1919); 53 Rifle Div (Sept 1919–July 1920); 19 Rifle Div (Oct 1919–Jan 1920); 21 Rifle Div (Dec 1919–May 1920); 2 Rifle Div (Dec 1919–Jan 1920; Aug–Oct 1920); 21 Rifle Div (Dec 1919–May 1920); 48 Rifle Div (Jan–July 1920); 56 Rifle Div (Apr–June & Oct 1920); 12, 29 Rifle Divs (May–June 1920); 5 Rifle Div (May–July 1920); 6 Rifle Div (May–June 1920); 18 Rifle Div (May–July & Oct 1920); 54 Rifle Div (June–Aug 1920); 33 Rifle Div (June–Oct 1920); 16 Rifle Div (July–Oct 1920); 27 Rifle Div (Aug–Oct 1920); 12, 15 Cav Divs (Apr–June & June–Sept 1920); 10 Kuban Cav Div (Aug–Sept 1920).
Twelfth Army (16 June–16 Oct 1919; 14 Aug–26 Sept 1920): 1 Ukrainian Soviet Rifle Div (June–Aug 1919) / 44 Rifle Div (Aug 1919–Apr 1920; June–Oct 1920); 45 Rifle Div (June–Oct 1919); 46 Rifle Div (June–Aug 1919); 47, 58, 60 Rifle Divs (Sept–Oct 1919); 7 Rifle Div (Feb–Oct 1920); 25 Rifle Div (May–Oct 1920); 1 & 2 Bdes, Red Ukrainian Galician Army (Feb–Apr 1920).
Third Army (11 June–31 Dec 1920): 56 Rifle Div (June–Sept); 5, 6 Rifle Divs (July–Oct); 21 Rifle Div (June–Oct); 11, 18 Rifle Divs (Oct); 12 Cav Div (Sept–Oct); 10 Kuban Cav Div (Nov 1919–Jan 1920; Sept–Oct 1920).
Fourth Army (11 June–18 Oct 1920): 12, 53 Rifle Divs (June–Aug); 18 Rifle Div (July–Aug); 48 Rifle Div (July–Sept); 54 Rifle Div (Aug); 4, 10 & 55 Rifle Divs (Sept–Oct); 57 Rifle Div (Aug–Oct); 17 Rifle Div (Oct); III Cav Corps (June–Aug); 17 Red Cossack Cav Div (June–Oct).
First Cavalry Army (14 Aug–27 Sept 1920): 4, 6, 11 & 14 Cav Divs (Aug–Sept).
III Cavalry Corps (25 June–Oct 1920): 10 Kuban, 12, 15 Cav Divs (June–Aug); 164 Rifle Bde (June–Oct).
Mozyr Group (18 May–Sept 1920): 57 Rifle Div (June–Sept).

SOUTH-WESTERN FRONT (10 Jan–25 Dec 1920):

Twelfth Army (10 Jan–13 Aug; 27 Sept–25 Dec): 10 Rifle Div (Jan); 60 Rifle Div (Jan–Feb); 58 Rifle Div (Jan–Oct); 47 Rifle Div (Jan–Apr); 45 Rifle Div (Feb–Apr); 57 Rifle Div (Mar); 7 Rifle Div (Mar–Oct); 25 Rifle Div (May–Oct); 24 Rifle Div (June–July & Oct); 16 Cav Div (July); 17 Cav Div (Feb–May); Bashkir Cav Bde (May–Aug); Red Ukrainian Galician Army (Jan–Apr).
Fourteenth Army (10 Jan–31 Dec 1920): 46 Rifle Div (Aug 1919–Jan 1920); 42 Rifle Div (Jan); Latvian Soviet Rifle Div (Jan–Mar); 41 Rifle Div (Jan–Oct); 44 Rifle Div (May–June); 47 Rifle Div (June–July & Aug–Oct); 45 Rifle Div (Jan–Mar, Apr–June, & Aug–Oct); 60 Rifle Div (Feb–Oct); 8 Red Cossack Cav Div (Jan, May–Aug & Aug–Sept); 3 Bde, Red Ukrainian Galician Army (Feb–Apr).
First Cavalry Army (17 Apr–14 Aug 1920): 2, 9 Cav Divs (Apr–May); 4, 6, 11 & 14 Cav Divs (Apr–Aug); 8 Red Cossack Cav Div (Aug); 45 Rifle Div (June–Aug); 24 Rifle Div (July–Aug & Sept).

Odessa (*Ukr,* Odesa), Orel, Petrograd (*Rus,* St Petersburg), Ural, Volga, and Yaroslavl. Odesa and Kyiv districts were in fact often under UNR control.

Branches of service

There were eight main branches during the Russo-Polish War:

General Staff (from Sept 1920).

Infantry 109 Rifle brigades (numbered within 1–192 series) with 327 Rifle regiments (1–576 series).

Cavalry 36 divisional cav regts (1–64 series); 39 cav bdes (1–69 series); 117 cav regts (1–207 series).

Artillery 36 art bdes (1–64 series); 13 horse art bns (1–23 series).

Engineers 36 divisional eng and sigs bns (1–64 series).

Armour 39 tank and armd car detachments (1–87 series); armd trains.

Medical Service 39 divisional medical and veterinary units (1–87 series).

Air Service 71 detachments: 53 recce (numbered 1–53); 13 fighter (91–103); 4 art-spotter (1–4); 1 photographic (1).

Fronts and armies

The highest formation was the Front, equivalent (in status, not strength) to an army group, with 3–6 armies under a *Komfronta*. In all 16 Fronts were established from 13 June 1918, but only Western Front in Belarus and South-Western Front in Ukraine fought Poland. The Ukrainian

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Red Army artillery recruits train on an M1909 122mm howitzer. All are wearing the standard Tsarist khaki uniform of M1910 peaked cap (without the M1918 red star), field shirt, breeches, puttees and ankle boots. (Courtesy Central Museum of the Armed Forces, Moscow, via Stavka)

Front, established to control 1st–3rd Ukrainian Soviet Armies, was disbanded on 4 June 1919. (For basic orders of battle of relevant Fronts and Armies, see Table 3, page 11.)

The 'infantry' army *(Armiya)* or mounted cavalry army *(Konarmiya)* was commanded by a *Komandarm*. An army comprised about 4 divisions (mainly Rifles), whilst a cavalry army had mainly cavalry divisions with minimal Army HQ troops. Eleven armies were formed, numbered First to Tenth and Thirteenth, plus five former 'Independent Red Armies': Eleventh (ex-North Caucasus); Twelfth (ex-First & Third Ukrainian); Fourteenth (ex-Latvian & Crimean); Fifteenth (ex-Second Ukrainian), and Sixteenth (ex-Lithuanian-Belarusian). There were also two mounted cavalry armies (First & Second). Seven of these armies – Third, Fourth, Twelfth, Fourteenth to Sixteenth, and First Cavalry (formed on 17 Nov 1919 from Budyonny's Cavalry Corps) – fought the Polish Army. A cavalry corps had HQ troops and 2–6 cavalry and rifle divisions. A Group *(Gruppa)* was a temporary formation of 1–2 divisions with supporting regiments and battalions, but no HQ troops.

Divisions, brigades and units

The M1918 named infantry division *(Pekhotnaya Diviziya)*, commanded by a *Nachdiv*, was awarded the Russian Imperial Army's élite designation of '**rifle division**' *(Strelkovaya Diviziya)* from 11 Oct 1918. In all 64 divs were formed, numbered 1–62 plus 1st Estonian and Latvian Soviet. Of these, 36 divs served on the Polish front: 2, Lithuanian / 4, 5–8, 10–12, 14, 16–19, 21, 24, 25, 27, 29, 33, 41, 42, 1 Ukrainian Soviet / 44, 45–48, Western / 52, 53–58, 60, and Latvian Soviet.

A rifle division's composition from 13 Nov 1918 was an HQ; HQ troops (872-man cav regt with 4 company-size sqns, increased during Nov 1918–July 1919 to four 2-sqn bns; tank or armd car dets; engineer and signals bns; supply, medical and veterinary units, all carrying the divisional number; air dets); three 3-regt rifle bdes; and an art bde with 3 field, 1 heavy and 1 mortar-howitzer battalions. The division officially totalled 58,325 men, equivalent to a British corps. This M1918 establishment proved completely unrealistic, and the 40,000-strong M1919 rifle division was still too large. In practice, most divisions in the field had a maximum of only 8,000 men.

An 11,000-man rifle brigade had HQ troops (sigs co; 360-strong eng co; sapper and supply cos; medical unit); an art bn; and three 3,687-man rifle regts (in practice, most regts had only 400–1,000 men in the field). Each regt had 3 bns; a bn had HQ troops (MG ptn; mounted recce, mortar, sapper, chemical, signals, supply, medical and veterinary sections); and 3 rifle companies. Rifle brigades and regiments were numbered sequentially through the divisions, so 1st Rifle Div comprised 1st–3rd Bdes with 1st–9th Regts, although this system was greatly disrupted by the pressures of war. Other units carried the divisional number.

A **cavalry division** *(Kavaleriyskaya Diviziya)* provided the Army's mobile assault capability; 26 were formed, numbered: 1, 1 Special, 1–3 Turkestan, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 (three divisions bore this number), 10–17, 18 (two divisions),

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19–21, and Western. Of these, nine (2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 & 17) fought Poland. A 7,653-strong M1918 cav div, introduced from 3 Aug 1918, had armour and air dets, 3 cav bdes, and 1 horse art bn (4 batteries). A 2,603-strong M1919 cav bde (introduced in Feb 1919) comprised HQ troops (MG regt and technical sqn) and 3 cav regiments. A 1,105-man cav regt had 4–5x 210-strong sqns, and a 4-gun MG section on *tachanka* carts. A technical sqn was added in Jan 1919, bringing regt establishment to 9,499; but in Feb 1919 the cav bde was reduced to 2 regts totalling 2,603 men, and in July 1919 the art bn lost one battery.

Six pilots of a *Konarmiya* air detachment, most wearing non-regulation dark blue '*French*' tunics with matching breeches and black marching or field boots. (Left) wears the MT drivers' black leather jacket with the collar open over a dark shirt and tie; (third left) wears the same jacket with the collar closed. (Fourth left) shows on his left sleeve the Red Air Force badge 1918–20, comprising a gold-embroidered winged propeller on a black cloth diamond, while (second right) wears the earlier gilt metal double-headed eagle and propeller. (Second left) wears the double-headed eagle on his left breast above another unidentified flying badge; note too his M1914 Air Service dagger. (Eugen Pinak Collection)

Cossacks were militarized communities guarding the Russian Empire's southern borders. They were identified as the Ukrainian Zaporizhian Cossacks, and 11 Russian 'hosts', the most prominent being the Don, Kuban and Terek Cossacks. The Bolshevik regime mistrusted these brave but undisciplined troops, most of whom fought in the White Armies, but 7 Red Army Cossack divisions were formed – 1, 2, 2 Don Composite, 8 & 17 Red Cossack, 5 & 10 Kuban – of which the last four fought Poland. However, in 1920 three Cossack brigades deserted and fought with Polish Third Army: two of Orenburg Cossacks (in Sept–Oct); and 3rd Don Cossack Bde (Capt Vadim Yakovlev), redesignated the Free Cossack Bde (Apr–Oct 1920).

Russian **armour** comprised company-sized armoured car detachments each 80–100 strong, with an HQ and signals section, 2 armd car ptns (4 cars each), and a technical platoon. An M1920 tank detachment had 81–113 men in HQ, signals and support sections, and 2 tank platoons.

The **Red Air Force** was organized on 15 May 1918 into four Air Districts (Petrograd, Moscow, Southern, and Voronezh), controlling (from 1919) 71 company-sized Detachments. An Air Group *(Aviagruppa)* normally comprised a recce and a fighter detachment, each 113-man detachment *(Aviaotryad)* having 6 aircraft. Between 10 and 30 detachments fought against Poland, but were ineffectual against Polish air superiority. The **Red Navy** – commanded by Vasili Alfater (from 15 Oct 1918), Yevgeny Berens (24 Apr 1919), and Aleksandr Nemits (5 Feb 1920) – was also an ineffectual force. In 1920 it numbered only 46,400 men in 2 seagoing Fleets and 13 River Flotillas, and only the Dnieper Flotilla saw action against the Poles.

The Russian Special Commission for combating Counter-revolution and Sabotage (BChK SNK – **Cheka**) was formed on 7 Dec 1917 as an internal security organization, and from 21 Feb 1919 its screening detachments monitored frontline units for political reliability; this was ensured by summarily shooting deserters. The **Border Guard** *(Pogranichnye Voyska)*, formed on 30 Mar 1918, was organized into 1st–3rd Frontier Districts, but did not patrol any frontier until Mar 1920, and the Polish-Soviet border only after the Oct 1920 armistice.

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UKRAINIAN & BELARUSIAN MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS

Ukrainian People's Republic, March–November 1920

The Commander-in-Chief of the UNR Army *(Armiia Ukraïnskoï Narodnoï Respubliky)* was Directory Chairman Symon Petliura, assisted by Col Volodymyr Salskyi as Minister of War. The Army commander was MajGen (later LtGen) Mykhailo Omelianovych-Pavlenko, with MajGen Volodymyr Sinkler as Chief of General Staff. In May 1920 the 40,000-strong UNR Regular Army *(Dieva Armiya UNR)* was reorganized with Polish support into 1st–6th Rifle Divs, later joined by the independent Cavalry and 1st MG Divs, the latter formed from Rifle replacement brigades. Two UNR regimental-strength divisions fought alongside the Poles: 3rd Div with Sixth Army (Apr–July 1920), and 6th Div with Second and Third Armies (Apr–August). The 23,000-strong UNR army, defeated on 11–12 Nov 1920 by Bolshevik forces, retreated into Eastern Galicia on 21 Nov, was interned until 24 Aug 1924, and later disbanded. (Meanwhile, some 40,000 guerrillas operated in Bolshevik-occupied Ukraine until 1925.)

A UNR rifle division had an HQ; HQ troops (cav regt; engineer, medical, supply, veterinary and legal HQs); and 3 rifle and 1 art brigades. The cav regt had an HQ; 4 cav sqns (company-equivalent, each with 4 ptns); an MG sqn (2 ptns) and a technical detachment (2 sapper-signals platoons). A divisional engineer HQ comprised an armd car bn; railway eng bn; air det (sqn); technical regt; radio bn; and an MT column. A rifle bde had an HQ; technical co; and 3 rifle battalions. A rifle bn comprised an HQ; cav half-company; technical co; 3 rifle cos (each with 3 rifle, 1 grenade & 1 MG ptns); MG co (4 ptns); and a recce co (2 rifle ptns). An art bde had an HQ; 3 light and 1 heavy regts (each with 1 howitzer and 3 field btys); 1 MG co; and a horse art bty with an MG platoon. Each rifle div was allocated a replacement rifle bde, but none of these achieved operational status. (Note that these theoretical establishments were rarely sustained in wartime.)

By Nov 1920 the Ukrainian Air Service *(Povitrovy Fliota UNR)* was reduced to one squadron *(Aviatsyiya Zagin)* with 8 aircraft. The Ukrainian

Symon Petliura (first right), 6th Rifle Div commander Col Marko Bezruchko (second left) and other UNR officers attend the victory parade by the Ukrainian 6th Rifle Div in Kyiv, May 1920. Petliura wears the M1919 uniform, other officers the M1920 pattern, with loose cap cords. HQ Staff Col Mikola Yanchevsky (second right, with sweeping moustache) has unofficial white shoulder-strap piping. Ukrainian officers were forbidden to wear the medals of former enemies of Ukraine, except for the two highest awards for military gallantry: the Russian Order of St George (worn by Col Yanchevsky) and the Austro-Hungarian Order of Maria-Theresia. (Eugen Pinak Collection)

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Navy *(Ukrainska Viyskova Fliota)*, deprived of seagoing ships since Dec 1918, manned the armoured train *'Chornomorets'*, a Naval Flotilla with two infantry companies, and other shore units in 1st Rifle Division. The Finance Ministry operated the company-sized Mogyliv-Podilska Border Brigade.

Three foreign contingents fought with the UNR Army in Nov 1920: LtGen Permikin's White Russian Third Army; Col Yakovlev's Combined Cossack Cav Div, formed in Oct 1920; and the Polish-Ukrainian Volunteer Detachment under Polish LtCol Walery Sławek.

Western Ukrainian People's Republic/Western Region UNR, November 1918–April 1920

The Galician Army (*Halytska Armiya* – HA) was formed on 13 Nov 1918 in the ZUNR from former Austro-Hungarian Army personnel, led by a series of commanders, principally MajGen Mykhailo Omelianovych-Pavlenko (10 Dec 1918–7 June 1919). Eastern Galicia had 12 military districts, and the HA was organized in Jan 1919 into 1st–10th and 1st Mtn Bdes (each with anything from 2 to 19 infantry battalions), grouped in Feb 1919 into I–III Corps.

On 14 May 1919 Polish forces, strengthened by Haller's 'Blue Army' divisions from France, launched an offensive. The HA counterattacked at Czortków (*Ukr,* Chortkiv) on 7 June, but Polish forces resumed their advance on 28 June. They forced the 85,000-strong Galician Army into western Ukraine on 17 July, where it joined the UNR Army. The HA captured Kyiv on 30 August 1919, but, unwilling to accept a UNR alliance with Poland, it turned to the White Russian Gen Denikin on 30 November 1919; since 6 Nov it had been redesignated the Ukrainian Galician Army (*Ukrayinska Halytska Armiya* – UHA). When Denikin retreated, the UHA, based in Eastern Podolia and reduced by typhus to about 5,000 men, joined the Red Army on 7 Feb 1920 as the Red Ukrainian Galician Army (*Chervona Ukrayinska Halytska Armiya* – ChUHA) in order to fight the Poles.

The ChUHA reorganized its depleted strength into 1st Bde (rifle regts numbered 1, 3 & 7; later 1–3); 2nd Bde (6, 9 & 10 Regts; later 4–6); and 3rd Bde (2, 8 & 11 Regts; later 7–9). The Polish Cavalry (later 1st Cav) Div defeated the Russian 44th and 58th (both Ukrainian) Rifle Divs and the ChUHA at the battle of Koziatyn (*Ukr,* Kozystyn) in Volhynia on 25–30 Apr 1920, whereupon the ChUHA disintegrated; the 1st Bde surrendered, and the rest deserted.

Belarusian People's Republic, March–November 1920

Following the BNR's declaration of independence from Russia on 25 Mar 1918, Belarusian units formed in Belarus and neighbouring states. After the Bolshevik invasion of 15 Jan 1919 the BNR government fled to Riga, Latvia, where it signed an alliance with Poland on 23 Feb 1920. Major-General Stanisław Bułak-Bałachowicz, a colourful and talented Polish commander, led the small Belarusian People's Army (*Belaruskaya Narodna Armiya* – BNA, redesignated the Bułak-Bałachowicz Operational Group), which comprised some 2,000 infantry and 800 cavalry.

Stanisław Bułak-Bałachowicz (front row, middle), the commander of the Belarusian People's Army in summer 1920, relaxes with members of his regiment in Estonia, 1919, while serving with the White Russian North-Western Army. This charismatic adventurer wears a *kubanka*, and a khaki *French* edged with black lambswool; under magnification, five gold wound stripes can be seen above his left cuff. Bułak-Bałachowicz was a gifted, daring and successful commander; after fighting for Poland in September 1939, he was shot by the Germans in May 1940. (Author's collection)

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Table 4: Selected battle order, Army of the Ukrainian People's Republic (UNR), mid-November 1920

GHQ: 1, 2 Replacement Rifle Bdes (forming); Technical Troops (Armd Car Bn forming; *Karmeliuk, Zaporizhets, Chornomorets* Armd Trains; Sigs Co; 1, 2 Railway Eng Cos; 1, 2 MT Cols; 1 Zaporizhia Air Detachment).
1 Zaporizhia Rifle Div: 1 Zaporizhia Rifle Bde (1–3 Bns); 2 Zaporizhia Rifle Bde (4–6 Bns); 3 Zaporizhia Rifle Bde (7–9 Bns, 22 Sept 1920); 1 Black Zaporizhia Cav Regt; 1 Art Bde (1 Art Bn); 1 Tech Bn; Naval Flotilla (Infantry).
2 Volhynia Rifle Div: 4 Greycoat Rifle Bde (10 Bn, 11 Greycoat Bn, 12 'Italian' Bn); 5 Black Sea Rifle Bde (13–15 Bns); 6 Rifle Bde (16 Bn, 18 Oct 1920); 2 Ivan Mazepa Cav Regt; 2 Art Bde (4 Art Bn); 2 Tech Company.
3 Iron Rifle Div: 7 Rifle Bde (19–21 Bns); 8 Rifle Bde (22–24 Bns); 9 Rifle Bde (25, 26, MG Bns); 3 Cav Regt (forming); 3 Art Bde (7, 9 Art Battalions).
4 Kiev Rifle Div: 10 Rifle Bde (28–30 Bns); 11 Rifle Bde (31, 32 Bns, 19 Sept 1920); 4 Cav Regt; 4 Art Bde (10, 11 Art Bns); 4 Tech Battalion.
5 Kherson Rifle Div (25 May 1920): 13 Rifle Bde (37 Bn); 14 Rifle Bde (40–? Bns, 17 Nov 1920); 15 Rifle Bde (43–? Bns, 20 Oct 1920); 5 Cav Regt (forming); 5 Art Bde (13 Art Bn); 5 Tech Bn (forming).
6 Rifle Div: 16 Rifle Bde (46, 47 Bns); 17 Rifle Bde (49, 50 Bns); 6 Kost' Gordiyenko Cav Bn; 6 Art Bde (16, 17 Art Bns); 6 Tech Battalion.
1 Machine-Gun Div (9 Sept 1920): 1 MG Bde (1, 2 MG Bns, 19 Sept); 2 MG Bde (3, 4 MG Bns, 19 Sept); Art Bde (2 batteries); Tech Battalion.
Independent Cavalry Division (30 June 1920): 1 Cav Bde (1 Maksym Zalizniak, 2 Zaporizhia Cav Regts); 2 Cav Bde (3 Independent 'Colonel Udovychenko', 4 Ivan Sirko Cav Regts); Plastun Regt (inf bn); 1 Mtn Horse Art Bn (2 batteries).

Russian Third Army (1, 2 Rifle Divs) & Combined Cossack Cav Div (Oct–Nov 1920); Polish-Ukrainian Vol Det (Nov 1920)

The Group fought with Polish Third Army from 9 June 1920 in Western Belarus; at Włodawa on 30 Aug during the Battle of Warsaw; at Kamień Koszyrski (*Ukr,* Kamin-Kashyrski) on 15 Sept; at Lubieszów (*Ukr,* Liubeshiv) on 21 Sept during the battle of the Niemen; and captured Pinsk on 26 September. On 5 Nov, Bułak-Bałachowicz led the BNA, with Don Cossacks and Russians formed into a 14,750-strong Russian People's Volunteer Army *(Russkaya Narodnaya Dobrovolcheskaya Armiya)*, into Belarus. Following an unsuccessful attempt to revive BNR independence at Mazyr on 12 Nov 1920, Bułak-Bałachowicz retreated to Poland, where he was interned.

Officers of a Polish regimental HQ, probably 4th Lancers, watch as the regiment storms Lida during the Vilnius offensive, 15–20 April 1919. As a former unit of the Polish Corps in Russia, its officers are wearing Russian khaki uniforms: a peaked cap with light blue regimental band, and a *French* with light blue-and-white 'swallow-tail' pennant collar patches. (Author's collection)

THE RUSSO-POLISH WAR

First battles, January–May 1919

The Red Army established its Western Front army group on 3 Oct 1918 (comprising Western Army, formed on 11 Sept as Sixteenth Army) to occupy Lithuania, Belarus and Poland, and to track the German Eastern Command as it returned home during Dec 1918–Feb 1919. Western Army comprised three rifle divisions: 17th, Western (Polish communists), and Lithuanian (actually Russian). It commenced its advance on 17 Nov 1918, with Western Div taking Vilnius and Lithuanian Div taking Minsk on 5 Jan 1919, defeating the Polish-manned LB Self-Defence units and abolishing the Belarusian People's Republic.

On 1 Feb 1919 the Polish Army formed five combat Groups from the Fronts: Northern (1st LB Div), Southern, Kovel (1st Legion Div), Bug, and Rozwadowski, and advanced from 9 Feb into western Belarus and north-western Ukraine. On 14 Feb the Wilno Rifle Regt occupied Bereza

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(*Bel,* Byaroza) in Belarus in the battle of Bereza Kartuska; 1st LB Div took Slonim on 2 March, while the Podlesian Group (formed in Jan 1919) captured Pinsk on 5 March. On 15 Apr, Piłsudski launched 11,000 troops in the Vilnius offensive against the Red Army's Western Division. 1st Legion Div and Zaniemensk Cav Grp stormed Lida on 17 Apr, and Belina Cav Grp occupied Vilnius on the 21st. 1st LB Div advanced to take Navahrudak and Baranowicze (*Bel,* Baranovichi) on 18 Apr; by May 1st Legion Div had reached Lake Naroch (*Bel,* Narach) in north-east Belarus, and 9th Inf Div was near Luniniec (*Bel,* Luninets) in Belarusian Polesia.

The **Polish-Ukrainian War** had broken out on 2 Nov 1918, as Polish POW units attacked the ZUNR capital Lviv, a city with a Polish-majority population but fiercely defended by the Galician Army; the Poles lifted the siege in May 1919. Meanwhile, in Dec 1918 Polish forces invaded the Volhynian region of the Ukrainian People's Republic (UNR). On 14 May 1919 the 1st and 2nd Polish Rifle Divs from France, 3rd Legion, 4th, and Lwów Divs launched an offensive against the ZUNR and UNR, ignoring specific Allied instructions. By 17 July 1919 the Poles had occupied most of Eastern Galicia. Meanwhile, MajGen Rydz-Śmigly had occupied western Volhynia up to Krzemieniec (*Ukr,* Kremenets) and Równe (*Rus,* Rovno; *Ukr,* Rivne).

Photographed in April 1920 just before the advance on Kyiv, LtGen Antoni Listowski (left), commanding Polish Second Army, confers with the Ukrainian commander-in-chief Symon Petliura. Listowski wears the Polish M1919 generals' service uniform, Petliura the Ukrainian service uniform introduced on 30 July 1919. Under magnification, Petliura can be seen to display a gold wire trident and foliate branches on the collar (see Table 10), and a generals' gold trident badge above the left elbow; note too an officers' dagger with gold wire knot. (Second right) Ukrainian Minister of War Col Volodymyr Salskyi (see Plate A3) is talking to Col Marko Bezruchko, commanding the Ukrainian 6th Rifle Div, which advanced to Kyiv under Polish Second Army. Both officers wear the M1920 officers' service uniform, Salskyi with rather full blue breeches and riding boots, Bezruchko with narrower breeches, puttees and ankle boots. (Eugen Pinak Collection)

Belarus, July–October 1919

On 1 July 1919, Polish Northern Group (1st LB, 2nd Legion, 1st GP and 8th Divs, and Zaniemensk Grp) took the offensive, taking Mołodeczno (*Bel,* Maladzyechna) on 4 July and Minsk on 8 August. 8th Div reached Polatsk as Northern Group advanced to the Bierezina river, with 2nd Legion Div taking Barysaw on 20 Aug, and 2nd Polish Tank Co helping 1st GP Div to capture Babruysk on the 29th. Meanwhile, 9th Div had taken Łuniniec on 10 July. 1st Legion Div halted on 28 Sept at Daugavpils on the Latvian border, securing the River Daugava's southern bank. With Vilnius, Minsk and Lviv now under Polish control, the army halted in central Belarus. Symon Petliura and the diminished UNR Army, driven back by Denikin's White Russians, concluded an armistice with Poland and took refuge in Polish-held territory on 5 December.

By December 1919 the Polish Army had 600,000 troops in 19 infantry divisions plus 11 brigades.

The Polish advance eastwards, January-April 1920

Following a Polish-Latvian military alliance of 30 Dec 1919, MajGen Rydz-Śmigly stormed across the frozen Daugava on 3 Jan 1920 (in –25°C snow conditions) with 1st & 3rd Legion Divs, 3rd Latvian Div and 2nd Polish Tank Company. He occupied Daugavpils on 5 Jan, expelling the Red Fifteenth and Sixteenth Armies before handing the town over to the Latvians.

By Mar 1920 the Polish Army was facing the Red Army in central Belarus and western Ukraine. On 7 Mar it reorganized its four Fronts into more mobile Armies: First & Seventh Armies from Lithuanian-Belarusian Front; Second Army from Volhynian Front; Fourth Army from

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A *Konarmiya* cavalry regiment's MG section of four *tachankas*, June 1920. The *tachanka* was a civilian two-horse cart or carriage mounting a rear-facing Maxim heavy machine gun. A skilled driver and team could inflict serious losses by manoeuvring into an enemy formation and firing swift bursts before disengaging at full speed. (Courtesy Central Museum of the Armed Forces, Moscow, via Stavka)

Polesian Front; and Sixth Army from Podolian Front. 9th Div occupied Mazyr on 5 Mar, cutting off Russian Sixteenth Army in Belarus from Twelfth Army in Ukraine.

BELOW **Semyon Budyonny, commander of the *Konarmiya* from December 1919, photographed in late 1918. Budyonny, with his characteristic cavalry moustache, wears a khaki *French* tunic with a standing collar; note his Order of the Red Banner on the pocket, and a small red flag badge pinned to the inner end of the flap. His wartime peaked cap has a cloth peak and chinstrap and a variant M1918 red star. He carries a Cossack M1904 *shashka* sabre. Budyonny's unsuccessful siege of Lviv and defeat of Komarów in August 1920 prevented him from participating in the Battle of Warsaw, where the *Konarmiya* might have secured a Russian victory. His reputation survived, and so did he: he was too simple a man to be any threat to Stalin. (Ventsislav Tchakov Collection)**

The Polish Kyiv offensive, April–May 1920

By Dec 1919 Symon Petliura had lost control of Ukrainian territory, with western Ukraine (Eastern Galicia, Podolia and western Volhynia) under Polish occupation, and central and eastern Ukraine under Russian control. He accordingly threw in his lot with Marshal Piłsudski, who now planned to attack Kyiv, destroy the Russian South-Western Front, and re-establish the UNR as a buffer state against Russia.

The Polish Army deployed 80,000 Polish troops in 9 Polish and 1 Ukrainian divisions and 3 brigades in western Ukraine. In the north was Second Army (13th & 15th Divs, 6th Ukrainian Division). Facing Kyiv was Third Army (1st Legion, 4th & 7th Divs, 3rd Cav Bde); Rybak Group (1st Mtn & 7th Cav Bdes); and the Cav Division. In the south, Sixth Army had 5th, 12th & 18th Divisions. The attack commenced on 25 Apr; Third Army captured Zhytomyr on the 26th, while Sixth Army took Vinnytsia. The Reds retreated, escaping encirclement by the pursuing Polish Cav Div, while 3rd Cav Bde and 1st Legion Div entered an undefended Kyiv on 7 May after a 120-mile advance.

But Piłsudski's triumph was an illusion, for while half his army was far from home supporting an ineffectual Ukrainian government, intact Red Army forces were still threatening Poland.

The Russian advance to Warsaw, May–August 1920: Red Army South-Western Front and *Konarmiya*

The formidable 18,000-strong First Cavalry Army *(Konarmiya)*, formed in Dec 1919 by Semyon Budyonny, had reinforced South-Western Front in April 1920. On 26 May the Russian Twelfth and Fourteenth Armies attacked the Polish 7th Div, but were pushed back by 1st Legion Division. On 27 May the *Konarmiya* assaulted Polish 13th Div but made no headway, and its 4th Cav Div was defeated at the battle of Volodarka (29–31 May); this prompted 3rd Don Cossack Cav Bde to desert to the Poles, as the Free Cossack Brigade. The 6th Cav Div was also defeated, on 31 May at Uman; but north of Kyiv the Golikov Group (7th & 25th Rifle Divs, Bashkir Cav Bde) advanced behind Polish lines east of Korosten.

On 5 June the Red Army South-Western Front advanced into western Ukraine. Budyonny pushed aside Polish Sixth Army at Samhorodok,

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reaching Zhytomyr on 7 June, only to be forced back himself to Kozystyn by the Polish Cav Division. Polish Third Army left Kyiv on 10 June heading towards Korosten, engaging Golikov en route. Polish forces retreated to the pre-Kyiv offensive line, but the *Konarmiya* breached this on 26 June, forcing a further Polish retreat to the River Goryń (*Ukr,* Horyń) in central Volhynia. The reinforced Polish Second Army attacked the *Konarmiya* on 2 July, but Budyonny captured Riwne from 3rd Legion Div; he soon lost it to Second Army, but regained it on 11 July when Second Army was ordered to regroup.

July 1920: 'Scythemen' recruits for the Volunteer Army, echoing a tradition dating from the Kościusko uprising of 1794. They are wearing Russian or Polish military caps and white Volunteer Army armbands, and carry scythes with the long curved blade repositioned to form a billhook – highly effective at hand-to-hand range, if the scytheman lived long enough to get that close. These volunteers also wear flowers tucked into their breast pockets, suggesting that they are departing for the front. (Author's collection)

The *Konarmiya* entered Eastern Galicia, and on 25 July advanced with Russian Fourteenth Army towards Lviv. Budyonny was halted at Dubno by Polish 18th Inf Div which, with Second and Sixth Armies and 1st Cav Div, forced the *Konarmiya* back at Brody (29 July–2 Aug 1920). Budyonny paused before capturing Brody on 13 Aug, and heading for Lviv. Meanwhile, Russian Fourteenth Army took Tarnopol (*Ukr,* Ternopil), 31 July–6 Aug, and this city became the capital of the Galician Soviet Socialist Republic (8 July–21 September).

Red Army Western Front

Meanwhile, in April 1920 Mikhail Tukhachevsky had assumed command of Western Front in eastern Belarus, facing Polish Northern Front; he had 120,000 troops in Twelfth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth Armies, Gaia Bzhishkiant's élite 3rd Cav Corps, and Mozyr Group. Sixteenth and Fifteenth Armies attacked at Biarezina on 15 May, but Polish First, Fourth and Reserve Armies forced them back on 8 June. On 4 July Tukhachevsky launched an epic 400-mile offensive with (north-south) 3rd Cav Corps; Fourth, Fifteenth, Third and Sixteenth Armies; and Mozyr Group. By 7 July Polish Northern Front was in retreat, failing to hold three defensive lines; they lost Lida (4 July), Minsk (11th), Vilnius (14th), Grodno and Baranovichi (19th), Słonim (22nd), Pinsk (26th), and Brest (1 August). Northern Front withdrew to the Narew-Bug line; but Russian 3rd Cav Corps led Fourth, Fifteenth and Third Armies across northern Congress Poland towards Toruń, bypassing Warsaw. Polish Fourth Army and the Polesian Group (6th, 9th & 21st Divs, 2nd Cav Bde) failed to stop Sixteenth Army crossing the Bug.

August 1920: while volunteers massed to defend Warsaw, in Russian-occupied Białystok and Minsk the Provisional Polish Revolutionary Committee *(Polrevkom)* under Julian Marchiewski functioned from 23 July to September as a puppet Polish communist government. These communist militiamen on duty in an eastern Polish town seem, from their clothing, to be a labourer and a member of the middle class; both wear red armbands, and the visible rifle is an M1891 Mosin-Nagant. (Author's collection)

On 1 July, Piłsudski formed the Council of National Defence, and on 3 July it appealed to civilians to join the Volunteer Army, with Gen Józef Haller de Hallenburg as Inspector-General. Recruitment

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A Polish Volunteer Cavalry unit, named on its guidon as 'II Squadron of Death', photographed in Lviv, August 1920; such scratch units successfully defended their city from the maraudng *Konarmiya.* Note (far right) a female volunteer. Typically, they are wearing a variety of tunics, including M1917 lancer (second left), Polish Corps in Russia field shirt (fourth left), M1919 khaki (flag-bearer), and M1919 lancer (second right). All wear M1915 Adrian helmets with the front plate painted over or removed. Again, most seem to display small bunches of flowers. (Author's collection)

was good; 105,714 men and women enlisted by 1 Oct, and a Volunteer Div, 31 infantry and 8 cavalry volunteer regiments were formed.

Battle of Warsaw, 6–25 August 1920

On 6 Aug, Piłsudski withdrew the Polish Army 100 miles from the Bug to the Vistula river, buying time to reorganize the field armies for the forthcoming battle.

Northern Front comprised Fifth Army at Modlin (9th, 17th, 18th, Vol & Northern Cav Divs; VII Res, Siberian Bdes); First Army (8th, 10th, 11th, 15th & 1st LB Divs); and, at Warsaw, Second Army (2nd Legion, 4th & 6th Divs; 4th Cav Brigade).

Central Front comprised Third Army (1st, 3rd Legion & 7th Divs; 6th Ukrainian Div; Combined Cav Bde), and Fourth Army (14th, 16th, & Mtn / 21st Divs), at Lublin. Piłsudski assembled five divisions (1st, 3rd Legion, 14th, 16th & Mtn / 21st) and 4th Cav Bde into an Assault Group. Southern Front, defending Eastern Galicia, had Sixth Army (5th, 12th & 13th Divs; 1st Cav Div) and the UNR Army (1st–5th Rifle Divs; Cav Division).

The Battle of Warsaw commenced on 12 Aug as Russian Third and Sixteenth Armies probed Warsaw's outer perimeter. On 13 Aug Sixteenth Army captured Radzymin, smashing Polish Fifth Army's 11th Division. The Polish 18th Div and Siberian Bde attacked Fifteenth and Third Armies at Modlin on 14 Aug, but were only saved from defeat by 203rd Vol Lancers at Ciechanów. Meanwhile, Russian Sixteenth Army repelled 1st LB Div at Radzymin on 13–16 Aug, and reached Izabelin, 8 miles from Warsaw, smashing 8th Division.

However, on 15 Aug Polish resistance stiffened: 10th Div halted Sixteenth Army, retaking Radzymin twice, while 18th Div, 8th Cav Bde and armoured cars forced back Russian Fourth Army at Sarnowa Gora by 19 August. On 16 Aug, 1st Light Horse Regt prevented Polish Fifth Army's disintegration at Płońsk; and 9th, 17th and Vol Divs and Siberian Bde drove back Russian Third Army, taking Nasielsk. Meanwhile, Piłsudski's Assault Group advanced northwards against Mozyr Group, outflanking the Russian Western Front threatening Warsaw. On 18 Aug, 10th, 14th–16th and 21st Divs almost destroyed Russian Sixteenth Army as Polish Fifth and First Armies advanced, forcing Russian Fifteenth and Third Armies back while 3rd Legion Div headed for Brest.

Russian forces retreated before Polish lancers; Fifteenth Army was smashed on 20 August, but Third Army escaped. Russian 3rd Cav Corps was defeated by Polish Fifth Army north of Warsaw, at Płock on the 19th and at Mława on 22–25 Aug, and Piłsudski halted his offensive on the 25th. Russian Western Front's Fourth Army and 3rd Cav Corps were interned in East Prussia, but the survivors of Third, Twelfth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth Armies got safely across the River Niemen in central Belarus.

Meanwhile, Budyonny's *Konarmiya* had been advancing towards Lviv since 13 Aug against Polish Sixth Army, but its supporting Twelfth Army was defeated by 3rd Legion Div and the Free Cossack Bde at Hrubieszów

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on the 13th–14th. On 16 Aug Budyonny approached Lviv, held by a garrison of regular and volunteer units and civilians, including 54th Inf and 238th–240th Vol Inf Regts, with 2nd Cav Div in support. A Polish Vol Youth Bn and I Bn/54th Inf fought to the last man against Russian 6th Cav Div at Zadwórze near Lublin on 17 August.

Final battles, 25 August 1920–18 March 1921: Red Army Western Front and *Konarmiya*

On 25 Aug, Budyonny's horsemen headed north. Polish Third Army (1st–3rd Legion, 7th, 9th & 10th Divs, 6th Ukrainian Div) attacked the *Konarmiya* on 29–30 Aug at Zamość near Lublin with 2nd Legion and 10th Divs, plus Sixth Army's 1st Cav and 13th Divisions. On 31 Aug, Polish 1st Cav Div under MajGen Juliusz Rommel (a distant relative of the 'Desert Fox'), 10th & 13th Divs and 2nd Cav Div defeated the *Konarmiya* at Komarów. Budyonny rejoined Twelfth Army across the River Bug on 2 Sept at Hrubieszów; this town had been besieged by 2nd Legion Div since 20 Aug, and was occupied on 6 September.

Tukhachevsky speedily reconstituted the Western Front, and by 1 Sept he had positioned its four armies along the River Niemen in western Belarus: (north-south) Third, Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Fourth. They faced Polish Second Army (1st & 3rd Legion, 21st, Vol Divs) at Białystok. Second Army's Assault Group (1st Legion, 1st LB Divs; 2nd & 4th Cav Bdes) were at Sejny; Suwalki Grp (17th Div, Siberian Bde) at Suwalki; and Fourth Army (11th, 14th–16th Divs) at Brest. Polish Fourth Army attacked Russian Fourth Army at Kobryn during 11–23 Sept, relieving pressure on Brest. The Battle of the Niemen began on 20 Sept; the Assault Group advanced through Lithuania, taking Lida on the 25th, and engaging Third Army on the 27th–28th at Krwawy Bór as it retreated from the Brzostowica Wielka (*Bel,* Vyalikaya Byerastavitsa) bridgehead secured on the 25th by Polish Second Army. On 26 Sept, 21st Div resisted a counter-attack at Obuchowe. Polish Second and Fourth Armies advanced steadily, and when Third Army's 18th Div outflanked Russian Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Fourth Armies by taking Pinsk on 26 Sept, Tukhachevsky ordered the retreat.

Red Army South-Western Front

In western Ukraine, South-Western Front were being hotly pursued by Polish Third Army (2nd Legion, 7th, 9th, 10th & 18th Divs; Ukrainian 6th Div; Don and Orenburg Cossacks) and Sixth Army (5th, 7th, 8th, 12th & 13th Divs; 1st Cav Div; Ukrainian 3rd Div). 7th Div's lorry-borne infantry took Kovel on 13 Sept; 13th Div occupied Luck (*Ukr,* Lutsk) on the 16th; 7th and 13th Divs took Riwne on 18 Sept, while the UNR Army advanced from Eastern Galicia. Budyonny's Red Cossacks wiped out elements of Polish 8th Div at Dytyatyn on 16 Sept, but were themselves destroyed at Ternopil.

By 26 Sept, South-Western Front had left the region, and by October Western Front was

Lviv, 1920: a female crew practise with a Russian M1910 7.62mm Maxim heavy machine gun with the Sokol wheeled mount. About 2,500 Polish women volunteered for the Women's Volunteer Legion (*Ocotnicza Legia Kobiet* – OLK), formed in December 1918 by Maj, later LtCol Aleksandra Zagórska (who is seen here in the left background, wearing M1915 field-grey Polish Legions uniform). Originally intended as administrators, the women fought in all branches except the air service and armour. These volunteers are wearing *maciejowka* caps with Polish eagle badges, and various civilian coats; the gunner has an M1919 khaki greatcoat with NCO rank insignia on the shoulder straps. (Author's collection)

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in full retreat. Polish Second Army's 3rd Legion Div took Święciany (*Lith,* Švenčionys) on 10 Oct, Molodeczno (*Bel,* Maladzyechna), and finally Minsk on the 12th. Determined to liberate Vilnius, Piłsudski actually ordered his 1st Lithuanian-Belarusian Div to 'mutiny' and occupy Eastern Lithuania on 8 October. Soon thereafter he signed an armistice with Russia, which led to the Treaty of Riga signed on 18 Mar 1921. By its provisions, Poland retained all of its military gains except Minsk.

POLISH ARMY UNIFORMS & INSIGNIA: 1919

The elements forming the Polish Army from 11 Nov 1918 wore uniforms and equipment of seven different origins, but this did not dicourage Piłsudski's determination to create a force capable of defeating the Red Army. Famously, the most diverse formation was 1st Cav Div, whose six cavalry regiments included personnel from the Polish Legions and the Austro-Hungarian, German and Tsarist Russian Armies.

Polish Armed Forces (PSZ)

A 'field-grey' (greenish-grey) uniform with silver-plated M1830 buttons showing an eagle with outspread wings was introduced from 10 Apr 1917, and extended to 9 inf divs: 1st–3rd Legion (PSZ); 4th, 6th (AH Army), 5th (Lwów Rifles); and 7th–9th (AH army and POW). Main branch colours were: general officers, general staff, cavalry – dark red piped with white; infantry – crimson; artillery – black; engineers – red; air service – yellow.

Officers wore a soft-crowned *maciejowka* cap with a zigzag silver braid chinstrap, a central horizontal band-welt (general officers, field grey), an M1917 crowned eagle and shield badge, and a silver rosette. The officers' 6-button tunic bore zigzag silver braid (generals, double; other officers, single) on the front and lower edges of branch-colour collar patches. It had external pleated pockets; pointed, buttoned cuffs; and branch-colour front, pocket-flap and cuff piping. Plain breeches (generals, two dark red stripes; general staff officers, one) were worn with riding boots, or field-grey puttees or leather leggings with black ankle boots.

Rankers wore a *maciejowka* with a cloth chinstrap, and M1917 eagle and shield with unit number; a plain tunic with branch-colour collar patches with single-zigzag braid; internal waist pockets, and plain turnback cuffs. Plain trousers were worn with puttees and ankle boots. Cavalry wore lancer tunics with dark red piping, and zigzag braid around the front and top of standing collars. Officers wore silver wire straight or plaited trefoil shoulder straps with gold rank stars and crowns, on branch-colour

LEFT **NCOs of 7th Lancers Regt relax for the camera, 1919. They wear M1917 PSZ field-grey lancer tunics, with dark red collars and piping, and cavalry zigzag braid on the front and top collar edges. The NCO (second left) is a staff sergeant, while both lancers on the right are corporals. (Polish Institute & Sikorski Museum, London)**

RIGHT **Photographed in January 1919 in Grodek Jagiellonski (*Ukr,* Horodok), Eastern Galicia, these two cavalrymen are from 1st Lancers Regt, formerly part of the Polish Corps in Russia. Both wear Russian khaki peaked caps with M1917 eagle badges, and khaki lancer overcoats with fur collars. The man on the right has Russian-style double belt braces and a pistol, suggesting an officer; he carries a Cossack M1904 *shashka*, his companion a Russian M1881/1909 cavalry sabre. (Polish Institute & Sikorski Museum, London)**

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Table 5: Polish Army selected branch insignia, 1 November 1919–18 March 1921

Branch	Facing cloth	Piping	Silver collar insignia	Silver shoulder insignia
(First) Marshal of Poland	Navy blue velvet	Dark red	Eagle, gold & silver crossed maces	
Generals (combat)	Navy blue velvet	Dark red	Eagle	
Generals (services)[1]	Branch	Branch	Branch	
General Staff	Navy blue velvet	Dark red	Eagle	
Infantry	Navy blue	Yellow		Regt no.
Mountain Rifles	Navy blue	Yellow	Swastika, pine-cone	Regt no.
1st Light Horse Regt	Dark red	White		JP monogram
Light Horse[2]	Dark red	White		Regt no.
Lancers[2]	Dark red			Regt no.
Tartar Cavalry[2]	Dark red	Light blue	Star, crescent	Star, crescent
Mounted Rifles[2]	Dark red	Dark green		Regt no.
Armour	Black[3]	Yellow		Regt no.
Air Service	Yellow			Regt no.
Field Artillery	Dark green[3]	Black		Regt no.
Heavy Artillery	Dark green[3]	Black		C + Regt no.
Horse Artillery[2]	Dark green[3]	Dark red		K + Regt no.
Engineers	Black[3]	Red		Bn no.
Bridging Engineers	Black[3]	Red		MS + Bn no.
Signals	Black[3]	Light blue		Bn no.
Military Border Guard	Light green	White		Regt no.
Military Police	Red	Yellow		
Transport Service	Dark brown	Light blue		Bn no.
Medical Service	Dark red[3]	Navy blue	Asclepius rod, wreath	
Veterinary officers	Brown	Olive green	Sword, snakes	
Supply officers	Brown	Light blue	Leaves	
Military Officials			Rank insignia	

Notes:
(1) Medical officers and Supply. (2) From July 1920, coloured pennant and zigzag braid on plain collar. (3) Velvet for officers.

underlay; NCOs had silver rank bars and edging on rectangular (cavalry, scalloped) shoulder straps with branch-colour piping.

Polish Corps in Russia

The 10th Inf Div wore the M1917 greenish-brown 'Russian khaki' field uniform with brown bone buttons introduced for the Polish Corps in Russia, December 1917. Branch-colour collar patches were: generals and infantry – red; lancers – regimental pennants; artillery – black piped with red; engineers – black.

Officers wore either a Russian peaked cap with branch-colour crown- and band piping, or a *maciejowka* with a brown leather chinstrap and peak edged silver and a branch-colour band, with an M1917 silver crowned eagle and shield badge. The 5-button *French* had a stand-and-fall collar with branch-colour parallelogram patches (cavalry, two-coloured pennants); plain or branch colour-piped shoulder straps; external pleated pockets; turnback or pointed cuffs with branch-colour piping and buttoned flaps; dark blue breeches with branch-colour piping between two stripes, or khaki field breeches with branch-colour piping;

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and black leather riding boots. Rankers wore a khaki 5-button *gymnastiorka* field shirt. Rank insignia on the left upper sleeves comprised point-down chevrons, in gold or silver braid for officers and red cloth for NCOs. Armour and air service wore dark blue uniforms.

From 8 Jan 1919 the Lithuanian & Belarusian Self-Defence Force was accepted into the Polish Army, wearing either PSZ uniforms and insignia or Russian uniforms with Polish insignia. These personnel later formed the 1st and 2nd Lithuanian-Belarusian Divisions.

Polish Army in France

Haller's Army contributed 4 inf divs numbered 11–13 and 18. On 30 Sept 1917 they were authorized the M1915 French 'horizon-blue' field uniform (a greyish light blue). Branch of service was shown by the colours of buttons, collar patches, and collar-patch and cap piping: rifles – gold button colour, horizon-blue patches, dark green pipings and cap horn; mounted rifles – silver, dark red, white; artillery – gold, red, light blue; armour – gold, red, white.

Officers wore the service-dress *rogatywka* with black leather peak; button-colour chinstrap; branch-colour piping on the crown, vertical seams and band upper edge; and an M1917 silver badge of a crowned eagle with outstretched wings and a shield with 'WP' *(Wojsko Polskie)*, positioned above a cloth oval with button-colour horizontal rank bars. Generals had zigzag silver braid on a branch-colour cap band. Officers' field uniform had a *rogatywka* service cap. The officers' 6-button tunic had a stand-and-fall collar with branch-colour patches double-piped at the upper edge in button colour; pointed shoulder straps bearing a silver wire eagle on a red oval; external pleated pockets, and turnback cuffs. Rankers wore a *rogatywka*, and a tunic with internal pockets and plain cuffs, under a habitual greatcoat. Officers' rank insignia were button-colour horizontal bars on the cap and the tunic cuffs (generals had cap stars, and red cuffs with zigzag braids). NCOs and senior privates had diagonal cuff stripes in button-colour or dark blue wool respectively.

Two Polish officers with a captured Russian Austin-Putilov armoured car at Babruysk, Belarus, on 28 May 1920. They wear regulation M1919 khaki service uniform apparently with the black collar patches, piped yellow, of Polish armoured troops. The car's Russian name *'Stenka Razin'* (after a 17th-century Russian Cossack general who fought the Poles) has been changed to *'Poznańczyk'* ('Poznanian', after GP Armoured Train No.11), which suggests that the officers are from a Greater Poland unit. (Author's collection)

Greater Poland Army

The four GP divisions (numbered 14–17) wore the M1919 field-grey service uniform introduced from 8 Jan 1919, or German Army items. Branches were indicated by silver collar badges: generals – silver eagle on red patch; rifles – regimental numeral, or eagle or lion badge; lancers – regimentally coloured pennants; artillery – regimental numeral and crossed cannons; sappers – crossed spade and axe; air service – wings on a dark blue patch piped yellow.

Officers wore a tall, loose-crowned *rogatywka* with an M1919 silver crowned eagle with outstretched wings, and black leather peak and chinstrap with silver braid slides. The M1919 6-button tunic had a high stand-and-fall collar with narrow vertical red-and-white cloth stripes; external pleated pockets; pointed cuffs with or without buttons; and dark red piping at collar,

(continued on page 33)

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COMMANDERS

1: *Pierwsy Marzałek Polski* Józef Piłsudski; Lipsk, Sept 1920

2: *Komanduyushchiy frontom* Mikhail Tukhachevsky, Red Army; Moscow, April 1920

3: *Polkovnyk* Volodymyr Salskyi, Ukrainian Minister of War, June 1920

A

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FIRST BATTLES, FEB–MAY 1919

1: *Generał-porucznik* Szeptycki, 1st Lithuanian-Belarusian Div, Polish Army; Grodno, April 1919

2: *Otdelyonniy komandir,* 3rd Siedlec Revolutionary Inf Regt, Red Army; Lida, April 1919

3: *Kapral,* 4th Lancer Regt, Polish Army; Vilnius, April 1919

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BELARUS, JULY–OCT 1919

1: *Starszy strzelec,* 4th Greater Poland Rifle Regt, Polish Army; Babruysk, Aug 1919

2: *Plutonowy,* 3rd Legion Inf Regt, Polish Army; Minsk, Aug 1919

3: *Komandir polka,* 20th Art Regt, Red Army; Minsk, Aug 1919

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POLISH ADVANCE EASTWARDS, JAN–APR 1920

1: *Porucznik,* 1st Tank Regt, Polish Army; Daugavpils, Jan 1920

2: *Starszy szeregowiec,* 35th Inf Regt, Polish Army; Mazyr, Mar 1920

3: *Chetar,* 1st Regt, Red Ukrainian Galician Army; Vinnytsia, Feb 1920

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KYIV OFFENSIVE, APRIL–MAY 1920

1: ***Komandir roty,*** **54th Rifle Regt, Red Army; Zhytomyr, April**

2: ***Roiovyi,*** **17th Rifle Bde, UNR Army; Zhytomyr, April**

3: ***Major,*** **7th Field Art Regt, Polish Army; Kyiv, May**

E

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RED ARMY ADVANCE TO WARSAW, JUNE–AUG 1920

1: *Pomoshchnik komandira vzvoda,* 55th 'Narva' Cav Regt, Red Army; Grodno, July 1920

2: *Podporucznik pilot,* 15th (4th Greater Poland) Fighter Sqn, Polish Army; Lviv, Aug 1920

3: *Starshina,* 22nd Recce Air Det, Red Army; Lviv, Aug 1920

F

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BATTLE OF WARSAW, AUG 1920

1: *Komanduyushchiy armiey* Budyonny, First Cavalry Army; Werba, 12 Aug

2: *Kapitan,* 1st Bn, 54th Border Rifles Regt, Polish Army; Zadwórze, 17 Aug

3: *General-porucznik* Latinik, Polish First Army; Radzymin, 14 Aug

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FINAL BATTLES, AUG–OCT 1920

1: ***Wachmistrz sztabowy,*** **8th Lancer Regt, Polish Army; Komarów, Aug 1920**

2: ***Pomoshchnik komandira eskadrona,*** **10th Kuban Cav Div, Red Army; River Niemen, Sept 1920**

3: ***Krasnoarmeyets,*** **58th Eng Bn, Red Army; Minsk, Oct 1920**

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shoulder straps, cuffs, and pocket flaps. NCOs and privates usually wore the M1919 tunic with internal waist pockets with diagonal buttoned and scalloped flaps. All ranks might equally wear German M1910 or M1915 field tunics. Cavalry wore lancer tunics with regimental piping, cap bands and breeches stripes. Officers' rank insignia comprised a buttoned cap trefoil in silver braid with rank slides, and braid cuff chevrons; NCOs and privates had grey trefoils and cuff chevrons.

1920

Unified Polish Army uniform regulations were published on 1 Nov 1919 but took until mid-1920 to implement, and many Polish troops reached the Oct 1920 armistice still wearing all or some of their pre-1919 uniforms, insignia and equipment. The practical but elegant M1919 uniform was in 'grey-greenish-brown' – a greenish dark khaki cloth – and silver buttons bore a Polish eagle with pointed wings.

Headgear

The M1919 officers' and WOs' *rogatywka* service cap had a loose crown pulled over the right ear; an M1917 eagle with unit number on the shield on the front of the crown, above rank insignia on the band; a brown leather chinstrap with a silver buckle and matching peak with silver edging; and silver (WOs, dark red) piping around the top of the khaki band, along the four vertical seams and forming a cross on the square crown. The NCOs' and privates' cap had no piping, and initially the eagle was placed lower astride the crown and band; but on 11 Feb 1920, NCOs and lance-corporals moved the eagle up to the crown to accommodate new rank insignia on the band. The plain khaki peakless field cap had small rank badges on the left front. The French M1915 Adrian steel helmet was worn with an eagle-and-shield plate.

Tunics and greatcoats

The M1919 officers' khaki 5-button tunic had a stand-and-fall collar, with branch-colour patches bearing zigzag silver braid (see below, 'Branch distinctions'); pointed shoulder straps bearing rank and unit insignia; two pleated external breast pockets and two large external waist pockets, all with square, buttoned flaps; and a sewn turnback buttoned cuff. NCOs and privates had no breast pockets, and internal waist pockets with diagonal, buttoned flaps.

The khaki 6-button greatcoat had a wide turn-down collar with diagonal cloth bars in branch colour; shoulder straps with rank and unit insignia; deep sewn turnback cuffs with a flap and two buttons; two internal waist pockets with buttoned, vertical flaps; a 4-button rear vent, and two buttoned rear tabs to support the equipment belt.

Legwear and footwear

Officers wore khaki breeches with black leather riding boots, or three-buckle leggings with ankle boots; or trousers with black leather shoes. Generals wore dark blue piping between two wide dark blue stripes.

Major dyplomowany **(Major, General Staff trained) Jerzy Grobicki, officer commanding 1st 'Józef Piłsudski' Light Horse Regt (15 August 1920–8 May 1921). Photographed in September 1920, Grobicki still wears an M1917 PSZ cap with officers' rosette and braid chinstrap. He displays the *Virtuti Militari* Silver Cross on his non-regulation British-style open-collar *French*; this has M1919 cuffs, a General Staff silver collar-eagle (as also worn by general officers), but no collar patches or 'JP' shoulder-strap monograms. The 1st Light Horse, formed in October 1918, were the élite Polish cavalry regiment; Grobicki led them at Warsaw (9th Cav Bde); and on 17 August at Arcelin, near Płońsk, they charged Russian forces and took 800 prisoners. (Polish Institute & Sikorski Museum, London)**

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Lieutenant Brochocki of the 13th Lancers in service uniform, showing the M1919 uniform with M1920 regimental collar pennant badges (here, pink/dark blue/pink), and double-zigzag silver braid. These replaced the M1919 dark red cavalry collar patches in July 1920. The silver wire regimental numeral below his rank star on the shoulder strap was removed from field uniform. As well as the *Virtuti Militari* Silver Cross on his left breast, the Cross and Polish Eagle commemorating service in I Polish Corps in Russia, 1918, can just be seen on his right breast. Many Polish Tartars served in this regiment. (Polish Institute & Sikorski Museum, London)

Weapons and equipment

Much brown leather equipment was retained from the various pre-1919 Polish forces. Officers' field equipment comprised a British-style 'Sam Browne' waistbelt and crossbrace; an M1917 cavalry sabre with officers' knot; a Russian M1895 7.62mm Mosin-Nagant or German M1908 9mm Parabellum pistol in a holster on the right front; and a khaki canvas mapcase and binoculars case on the left hip. Riflemen wore a leather belt with steel buckle, support straps, and two sets of rifle ammunition pouches; a frogged bayonet strapped to a spade clipped to the belt on the rear left hip; and a grey canvas breadbag strapped to the back of the belt. The rolled greatcoat was strapped around the khaki canvas backpack, and a khaki-painted messtin was strapped to the rear. Rifles included the French M1886/93 8mm Lebel and M1907/16 7.5mm Berthier, and the Russian M1891 7.62mm Mosin-Nagant.

Branch-specific items

Highland Infantry wore the M1919 khaki mountain service cap with a silver eagle badge, and a white eagle's feather tipped red tucked in the band. **Cavalry** (light horse, lancers and mounted rifles) wore dark blue service-dress riding breeches with regimentally coloured piping and wide stripes. The **Tartar Lancer Regiment** wore a traditional green short-sleeved, decorated waistcoat over a grey tunic, and red breeches striped white. **Air Service** flying personnel wore brown or black leather jackets/coats or khaki flying overalls lined with brown fur, and brown leather flying helmets.

Aloizy Sawicki (left) and Jerzy Kulinski of the 214th Reserve Lancer Regt, Volunteer Army, November 1920; both have the single rank bar of lance-corporal on their shoulder straps. Sawicki wears the M1919 Greater Poland field-grey cavalry uniform. His *rogatywka* shows the M1919 eagle but no trefoil rank insignia, while his tunic has M1917 cavalry zigzag collar braid. Kulinski wears an M1919 khaki peakless field cap with unofficial insignia: an M1919 eagle, silver regimental numerals, and the regiment's white/orange/white collar pennant. His non-regulation khaki *French* bears M1917 collar patches and zigzag braid. The 214th Regt, formed in July 1920, fought under 10th Inf Div at the battle of Zamość, 29–30 August; that December it was redesignated 24th Lancer Regiment. (Polish Institute & Sikorski Museum, London)

Branch distinctions

On the M1919 tunic all ranks wore branch facing-colour collar patches, with scalloped rear edges piped in a contrasting shade; sometimes, a silver metal or wire collar badge; and zigzag silver wire braid on the front and bottom edge (generals, triple; other officers and WOs, double; NCOs and privates, single braid). Former Russian and Greater Poland army cavalrymen retained their pennant collar badges, a practice extended in July 1920 to all cavalry. Silver braid or metal unit numerals and monograms were worn on service-dress shoulder straps but removed from field uniforms. M1919 greatcoat collars showed a horizontal double stripe of piping colour above facing colour, above the collar badge.

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Rank and other insignia (for shoulder-strap insignia, see Table 8, page 43)

General officers wore silver stars arranged horizontally on service-cap band zigzag silver braid; a zigzag braid cuff ring on the tunic; and silver stars above a zigzag bar on field caps. Field officers wore silver stars on the cap band with two silver braids on the upper edge, and silver stars above a single bar on field caps. Subalterns and warrant officers wore silver stars on the cap band and field cap. An officer cadet wore a silver braid chevron point down on the service-cap band; sergeants, 2–1 dark red braid chevrons; lower ranks, 3–1 dark red bars.

Sgt Stanisław Jaworski, 11th Lancers, photographed in 1921, wearing the M1917 PSZ dismounted uniform with *maciejowka* cap; the officers' unpiped dismounted tunic has enlisted shoulder straps, single-zigzag silver braid along the front and bottom collar-edges, and M1920 purple/white/purple regimental collar pennants. He displays the *Virtuti Militari* Silver Cross, and the Military Cross of Valour (three awards) instituted on 11 August 1920. (Polish Institute & Sikorski Museum, London)

Military officials had special rank titles, and wore silver braid insignia on their plain khaki tunic and greatcoat collars and on their circular-crowned peaked caps: major-general equivalent, 1x 4-pointed star and zigzag braid; field officer equivalent, 3–1 stars and two braids; captain equivalent, 3 stars. Chaplains had rank titles but no rank insignia.

Members of key sub-units wore M1917 badges on the left upper sleeves of tunics and greatcoats (officers in gold wire, NCOs and privates in brass) on a branch-colour cloth backing. A representative selection were: infantry/cavalry technical companies/squadrons – crossed axes; infantry/cavalry MG companies/squadrons – five splayed cartridges; infantry assault companies – flaming grenade; infantry/cavalry signals platoons – 'T' and lightning flashes; tanks – dragon; armoured trains – winged wheel; air service – gliding eagle.

RED ARMY UNIFORMS & INSIGNIA

The RSFSR demobilized the Russian Republican Army on 10 Nov 1917 and abolished military rank titles, making a clean break with the 'Tsarist' armies. However, the Civil War forced *Sovrevkom* to retain Tsarist uniforms and equipment, and to gradually reintroduce rank distinctions. Red Army 'commanders' (fulfilling both traditional officer and NCO roles) often wore superior-quality Tsarist officers' uniforms and equipment; other ranks had inferior Tsarist enlisted ranks' issue until new M1919 styles were introduced in 1920. Red Army personnel fought the Poles in shabby Tsarist khaki service and field uniforms and equipment.

Red Army troops collect their rations, 1920. Some are wearing the standard uniform of Tsarist khaki peaked cap, field shirt, breeches, puttees and ankle boots – the only available uniform before supplies of M1919 clothing became widely available – but some wear civilian items, and one (second left) is actually barefoot. The man (centre right), apparently supervising food distribution, has a black leather jacket, and is probably a political officer. (Author's collection)

Headgear

Initially Red Guard cap insignia of diagonal (top right to bottom left) stripes, or stars, all in red cloth, designated Red Army troops.

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Four Red Army 'military specialists' pose for the camera, apparently pleased to be back in uniform. All are wearing Tsarist khaki uniforms; the caps are either the M1910 with leather peak and chinstrap, or the wartime pattern with khaki cloth peak and chinstrap. (Left) wears an enlisted ranks' field greatcoat with fly front, and officers' double belt braces; (second left) has the enlisted service greatcoat with fly front and purely decorative centre buttons; and (right) has an officers' field greatcoat with two visible rows of buttons, and a Cossack *shashka*. (From the fonds of the RGAKFD in Krasnogorsk, via Stavka)

These were replaced from 29 July 1918 with an M1918 3cm-diameter convex red enamel star with curved points, edged gold, bearing a gold crossed hammer and plough, although there were many locally-manufactured variants.

The M1910 winter cap comprised a khaki headpiece (often with coloured cross-seam and crown pipings), with front and one-piece side/neck flaps in light grey natural or artificial astrakhan lambswool; secured with brown buttons and cloth loops, these could be unfastened and lowered to protect the neck, ears and mouth. The M1907 khaki peaked cap *(furashka)* had a black leather peak (painted khaki in the field), with or without a chinstrap; the wartime pattern had a khaki cloth peak and chinstrap. The M1919 khaki woollen headgear, nicknamed the *budenovka* after Semyon Budyonny, was the first distinctively Bolshevik uniform item. The first pattern, introduced from 16 Jan 1919, had a blunt-pointed crown; a 4.3–8.8cm-diameter branch-colour cloth star on the front; and cloth peak and flaps, secured by two 1.5cm branch-colour buttons. The second pattern, introduced from 8 Apr 1919, was cut taller, recalling a traditional Russian pointed helmet, with an M1918 enamel badge worn on the 10.5cm branch-colour cloth star. It was also manufactured in light khaki cotton for summer wear.

Tunics and greatcoats

Tsarist khaki tunics and grey greatcoats were worn without shoulder straps *(pogoni)*; types included the M1909 or M1913 high-collar tunic *(kitel)* with internal pockets, and the British-style high- or open-collar '*French*' with external pockets and buttoned cuff-flaps. The various patterns of M1910 or M1912 winter wool or M1914 summer cotton field shirt *(gymnastiorka)* all had standing collars. The M1919 khaki cotton summer field shirt, introduced from 8 Apr 1919, had a narrow hooked turn-down collar; 22cm x 4.5cm branch-colour spearhead-shaped *razgovory* collar tabs; a fly front with three pairs of 8cm x 2.5cm branch-colour *razgovory* buttoned chest tabs; two internal flapless slash waist pockets, and gathered cuffs with two khaki bone buttons. Sometimes collar- and chest tabs were in a subdued darker khaki for field uniforms.

The Tsarist officers' light grey double-breasted greatcoat *(shinel)* with visible buttons, and M1911 greyish-brown other ranks' double-breasted greatcoat with fly fastening and turnback cuffs, might be worn with a khaki wool *bashlyk* hood. The M1919 double-breasted infantry greatcoat *(kaftan)*, introduced from 8 Apr 1919, was in heavy khaki trenchcoat-cloth closed by four hooks, with a dark khaki collar; internal flapless vertical slash breast pockets; vertical waist-pocket flaps; and khaki scalloped waist flaps. The collar piping, cuff piping, diamond-shaped collar patches, and three coloured chest tabs (khaki for field uniforms), each with two khaki buttons, were in branch-colour wool.

Legwear and footwear

Officer-equivalent commanders often wore Tsarist khaki *sharovari* breeches and black riding boots, sometimes with extended leather knee

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guards. NCO-equivalent commanders wore M1919 khaki cotton summer trousers, introduced from 8 Apr 1919; M1916 greenish-grey canvas or black leather leggings, or enlisted men's khaki woollen puttees; M1908 or M1916 brown or black leather marching boots or ankle boots; or leather or birch-bark *lapti* slippers tied with rawhide string.

A group of *Konarmiya* cavalrymen who convey the atmosphere of undisciplined menace associated with this formation. The riders are wearing Tsarist peaked or fleece caps, or the first-pattern M1919 *budenovka.* Clothing includes Tsarist *French* tunics, field shirts and enlisted ranks' greatcoats. The red unit flags bear yellow lettering. (Ventsislav Tchakov Collection)

Weapons and equipment

All ranks wore M1911 brown leather equipment. In service dress, commanders had the M1912 officers' waistbelt, a right-shoulder crossbrace, and an M1912 or M1915 holster for an M1884 Smith & Wesson, M1895 Mosin-Nagant, or M1912 Browning pistol. In field uniform they added a second brace and wore both vertically at the front; officer-equivalent commanders had an M1899, M1910 or M1912 mapcase, and an M1912 or M1914 case for M1912 or M1915 binoculars. An M1881/1909 officers' sword or Caucasian M1904 *shashka* was often worn suspended from a narrow strap over the right shoulder, and sometimes a *kindzhal* dagger in the belt.

Rank-and-file wore the M1912 enlisted waistbelt with one or two M1909 ammunition pouches; an M1897, M1899, M1901, M1909, M1914 or M1915 waterbottle; a bayonet frog; and an M1916 light brown canvas bag slung over the right shoulder. They carried the M1891 7.62mm Mosin-Nagant rifle usually with a fixed bayonet, or German Mauser, Austrian Mannlicher, Japanese Arisaka or US variant Winchester rifles.

Branch-specific uniforms

In 1919 **General Staff** officers adopted a colourful service uniform comprising a red peaked cap and breeches with yellow piping; a crimson field shirt with black *razgovory*; and a crimson greatcoat with black collar,

Glossary of uniform items	
bashlyk	hood
budenovka	Russian helmet-shaped cloth headgear, popularized by Semyon Budyonny
cherkeska	Cossack ankle-length garment
French	Russian tunic with (usually) stand-and-fall collar, four external pockets, buttoned cuff-flaps
furashka	Russian peaked (vizored) service cap
gymnastiorka	Russian field shirt (shirt-tunic)
kaftan	Russian M1919 greatcoat
kindzhal	Caucasian dagger
kitel	Russian tunic with standing collar and internal pockets
kubanka	Kuban Cossack lambswool cap
lapti	Russian military slippers
maciejowka	Polish soft-crowned cap
mazepunka	Ukrainian field cap with earflaps cut to V-shape at front
pilotka	peakless sidecap/field cap adopted by Russian Air Service
razgovory	Russian spearhead-shaped collar and breast tabs
rogatywka	Polish square-crowned military cap
sharovari	Russian breeches, slightly flared at thigh
shashka	Caucasian sword
shinel	Russian officers' greatcoat
zubchatka	Ukrainian zigzag-pattern collar patches

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A Red Army crew pose with their M1918 twin-turret Austin-Putilov armoured car. They are wearing black leather or khaki cloth peaked caps, and most have the MT drivers' black leather jacket with standing collar and external breast pockets, and matching breeches. The soldier (second right), wearing officer-style double belt-support braces, prefers an M1914 flying jacket, with a black velvet turn-down collar piped in red. (Courtesy Central Museum of the Armed Forces, Moscow, via Stavka)

large left-cuff star, three-buttoned cuffs, and chest tabs piped light green. For field uniform they had a light green *budenovka* and a *kaftan* with black velvet collar, chest tabs, pocket flaps, cuffs and large black cuff star, all piped crimson. This was set off with braid collar and cuff edgings: 1–4 in gold for general-officer equivalents; 3–4 silver for field-officer equivalents.

Line cavalry wore M1919 greatcoats with extended skirts; dark blue breeches; spurred riding boots; M1900 leather or M1915 light brown canvas chest bandoliers with ammunition for their M1891 carbines, and swords. Three units wore coloured **Hussar** service uniforms. The Red Hussars Bde (14th Cav Div) had light blue caps and tunics, red cap bands and *chakchiry* riding breeches, and yellow pipings and tunic braids. The 55th 'Narva' Cav Regt (10th Kuban Cav Div) had the same uniform but with white piping and braids and yellow cap bands. The Independent Cav Bn (21st Rifle Div) had orange caps and tunics, blue cap bands, red breeches, and white pipings and braids.

Kuban Cossacks wore a black fleece *kubanka* cap; a red service or drab-colour field *beshmet* linen shirt; a khaki *cherkeska* ankle-length robe with two sets of 7–11 decorative cartridge tubes on the breast (depending on rank); a *bashlyk* hood; dark blue breeches piped red; an M1904 *kindzhal* on a narrow black belt with four decorative hanging straps, and an M1904 *shashka* sword. **Don Cossacks** wore a khaki field shirt, high black fleece caps with a red crown, dark blue peaked caps and breeches, red cap bands and breeches stripes. **Orenburg Cossacks** had a khaki field shirt with decorative cartridge tubes, and dark blue peaked caps and breeches with light blue cap bands and breeches piping. From 1919 the **Bashkir Cav Bde** wore on the left upper sleeve a red cloth star and crescent (later gold wire or cloth) on a green cloth diamond edged with gold.

Armoured car and tank units wore Tsarist black leather clothing comprising a peaked cap; double-breasted jacket with a stand or turn-down collar, two rows of 5 black bone buttons, internal breast pockets with buttonless scalloped flaps, internal waist pockets with square buttonless flaps, and the cuffs plain or with buttoned flaps; leather or cloth *sharovari*, and riding or marching boots. Armoured train crews wore this clothing with unit badges on the left upper sleeve; and **Cheka** troops had a black leather *budenovka*.

The **Air Service** wore the Tsarist officers' dark blue peaked cap with black band piped red, and an M1918 red star or M1914 silver winged propeller badge; a dark blue field shirt with two breast pockets, or a *French*; blue breeches piped red; black leather riding boots or leggings, or dark blue puttees with ankle boots. The M1914 black cloth *pilotka* peakless cap had silver braid and red flap piping; the M1914 brown leather flying helmet had an M1918 Red Army star superimposed on the M1913 grey metal double-eagle and propeller badge. The M1914 black leather jacket had a black cloth turn-down collar piped red; two rows of 6 silver buttons; buttoned cuff tabs; vertical internal flapless breast pockets,

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Table 6: Red Army selected branch and unit insignia, 16 January 1919–30 January 1923

Branch	Branch colour	Unit badge 1918–2 Apr 1920 (gold wire on black cloth square)	Branch badge 3 Apr 1920 (embroidered on cloth)
General Staff	Black piped crimson		
Infantry	Crimson	Machine-gunners: machine gun	Red star and yellow crossed rifles on green ground and yellow sun and rays, on crimson vertical diamond with yellow inner edging
Cavalry	Medium blue	Horse's head on silver-wire crossed sabres and horseshoe; red embroidered star on medium blue diamond	Red star and crossed sabres on green ground and yellow sun and rays, on medium blue horseshoe-shaped patch with yellow horseshoe inner edging
Artillery	Orange (later black)	Crossed cannons	Red star and yellow crossed cannons on green ground and yellow sun and rays, on tombstone-shaped patch with yellow inner edging
Engineers	Black	Crossed axe & spade. Sappers: crossed spade & pickaxe. Bridging: crossed oars on anchor. Electrical: crossed axe & spade on lightning bolts. Signals: lightning bolts. Railway: crossed axe & anchor	Red star and white crossed spade and axe on green ground and yellow sun and rays, on black square with yellow inner edging
Armour (Engineers)	Black	Machine gun above winged wheels; red embroidered star above silver wire winged wheels in gold wire wreath	
Medical Service	Branch	Red cloth cross on white cloth disc	
Air Service	Light blue	Gold or red embroidered star, eagles, wings & crossed propellers; gold winged propeller or aeroplane	Red star with black wings and propeller on yellow sun and rays, on horizontal light blue cloth diamond with yellow inner edging
Border Guards	Dark green		

and internal waist pockets with square buttonless flaps. There was also a brown leather version of the jacket. The M1914 black cloth 5-button tunic had external breast pockets with square buttonless flaps, and plain cuffs piped red. The French Air Service's horizon-blue thigh-length flying coat was also worn. Khaki cloth flying overalls had a black fur collar.

Branch distinctions

Six branch colours were introduced on 16 Jan 1919 for *budenovka* stars and buttons, field-shirt *razgovory* tabs, and greatcoat collar patches, piping and tabs (see Table 6, above). Some personnel unofficially wore Tsarist specialty patches (e.g. for machine-gunners, sappers, etc) comprising gold or yellow thread badges embroidered on black cloth rectangles on the left upper sleeve. These were superseded by the M1920 branch badges, introduced on 3 Apr 1920 (see Table 6); these had a gold edging for decorated 'Red Banner' units, and silver edging for wounded and battle-hardened soldiers.

Rank and other insignia (see Table 9, page 45)

From 15 Jan 1918 a red star on the left cuff identified any grade of 'Red commander' *(Krasny komandir).* On 29 July 1918 a left-breast badge was introduced to identify all Red Army personnel: a red enamel star edged gold, with a gold spade-and-plough, within a white metal wreath. During 1919, commanders adopted a gilt wreath. Air Service personnel wore a red star on a gold winged propeller in a gold wreath, or the Army breast badge with a winged propeller. Red cloth left-cuff rank insignia with inset

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black edging were introduced on 16 Jan 1919. These comprised a star with a black hammer-and-sickle, above 3–1 diamonds, squares or triangles arranged horizontally; they were worn on the left cuff of tunics, field shirts and greatcoats. Local variations included gold wire insignia on a red cloth square, or red cloth insignia on black cloth. Positional titles now supplanted military rank titles.

The Order of the Red Banner, the first Soviet medal, was introduced on 16 Sept 1918 for bravery and distinguished service. A red enamel star on a white disc in a brass wreath, with a red enamel banner, it was worn on the left breast on a red rosette until 1924. M1916 wound stripes, comprising yellow or red braid or cloth bars, were often worn on the left cuff.

UKRAINIAN UNIFORMS & INSIGNIA

Ukrainian People's Republic, March–November 1920

The UNR Army wore a greenish-brown 'khaki' uniform introduced from 30 Mar 1920, amending the 24 Apr 1919 uniform, and worn with Russian brown leather equipment. The peaked service cap, similar to the British M1902 pattern, had a cloth chinstrap (officers, button-colour twisted or loose cords) and peak, with a branch-colour band and gold or silver buttons; white or branch-colour crown-seam and band piping was non-regulation but very common. (See Table 7, page 41 for branch colours.) The M1918 metal cockade, reintroduced on 30 July 1919, had a gold trident on a blue disc with a gold serrated outer edging.

Col Oleksander Vyshnivskiy, commanding the UNR's 3rd Cav Regt, was badly wounded in July 1920 and never returned to active service. Photographed here in Warsaw, he wears the regulation M1920 khaki *French* tunic with a small unofficial brass regimental numeral on the shoulder straps. His non-regulation fleece cap is set at a jaunty cavalry angle, and bears an M1918 Ukrainian trident cockade. The medal may be the Ukrainian Iron Cross, painted onto the photograph retrospectively, and unrealistically small. (Eugen Pinak Collection)

The 5-button *French*, manufactured in various styles, had a stand-and-fall collar with branch-colour patches and button-colour rank insignia; plain rounded shoulder straps; external pleated breast pockets and unpleated waist pockets with scalloped or square buttoned flaps, and cuffs with or without buttoned tabs. Unofficial white or branch-colour piping was often worn on the collar, shoulder straps, breast pocket flaps, and cuffs. A large M1920 branch-colour cloth trident badge (with white piping for appropriate branches) was worn on the left upper sleeve.

The Tsarist officers' light grey greatcoat and other ranks' grey greatcoat were usually worn without branch or rank insignia. Officers wore khaki or dark blue *sharovari* piped in branch colour with riding boots; in service uniform, a waistbelt and crossbrace, in field uniform a waistbelt, map case, and sometimes a sword or dagger with sword knot. NCOs and privates wore khaki breeches and puttees with ankle boots, belt and ammunition pouches, and carried various patterns of rifle and bayonet. Fleece caps of various designs were popular. Foreign-made steel helmets, particularly the French M1915 Adrian, were worn, usually with a large black- or yellow-painted trident.

Stock shortages and personal preference permitted many non-standard uniforms to be worn, including the Russian khaki peaked cap with a black or khaki peak and

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Table 7: Branch insignia of Army of the Ukrainian People's Republic (UNR), 30 March 1920–August 1924

Branch	Button colour	Branch colour	Piping
Ministry of War; HQs (down to brigade level); Administration	Silver	Crimson	White
General Staff	Silver	Black	White
Infantry	Gold	Light blue	
Cavalry	Gold	Yellow	
Artillery	Gold	Red	
Air Service	Gold	Brick red	
Technical Troops*	Silver	Black	
Railway Engineers	Gold	Green	
Railway Transport Service (16 June 1920)	Gold	Crimson, light blue collar	White
Military Police (3 May 1920)	Gold	White, diagonal blue & yellow ribbon	
Supply	Silver	Dark blue	
Military officials	Branch	Branch; parallelogram collar patch	Branch
Medical Corps	Silver	Brown	
Veterinary Corps	Silver	Violet	
Kamianets-Podilsky Military School cadets: Infantry, Cavalry & Artillery sections	Gold	Light blue, yellow or red respectively	White

Note: * = Armoured Cars, Engineers (Sappers), Signals, Motor Transport, etc.

chinstrap and a branch-colour band; and the Russian M1909 or M1913 khaki high-collar tunic or field shirt, with shoulder straps sewn on. German M1915 field-grey uniforms were also worn, and by Sept 1920 some units had been issued the following: 1st–4th Divs – Polish M1919 khaki; 1st Div – US M1917 khaki; 2nd Div – German M1915 field-grey; 12th 'Italian' Rifle Bn, 2nd Div – Italian M1909 greenish-grey; 4th Div – Austro-Hungarian M1915 greenish-grey; 6th Div & 1st MG Div – British M1902 khaki.

General Staff officers and unit adjutants wore silver wire aiguillettes on the right shoulder. Military Police wore a white cap crown, and light blue aiguillettes on the left shoulder. The Air Service wore the M1914 *pilotka*, and a khaki cloth overall with black fur collar. From 30 Mar 1920 branch was indicated by coloured cloth cap bands, collar patches and sleeve tridents, sometimes with non-regulation pipings; and rank by button-colour collar patch tridents, bars, and 5-point (or unofficial 6- or 8-point) stars (see Table 10, page 46). Military officials had parallelogram-shaped collar patches and non-military rank titles; Kamianets-Podilsky officer cadets were ranked from *Yunak-bunchuzhnyi* to *Yunak-kozak*. Branch badges and shoulder-strap unit numerals were not officially prescribed at this time.

Naval personnel manning the *'Chornomorets'* armoured train and the Naval Flotilla wore Army uniforms with rank insignia introduced on 15 July 1918, and dark blue naval headgear. Officers and chief petty officers wore peaked caps, and rank on shoulder straps or left upper-sleeve chevrons; petty officers and seamen wore peakless sailors' caps and sleeve chevrons.

ZUNR and ZOUNR Armies

Galician HA (later UHA) personnel wore Austro-Hungarian Army greyish-green uniforms; a new greyish-green uniform was prescribed on

Capt Mikhailo Pogotovko, commanding the Ukrainian 1st Military Police Bn, February 1921. MPs were prescribed a dark blue service uniform, but usually wore khaki. Pogotovko is wearing the regulation MP cap with white crown and dark blue band; white collar patches incorporating blue and yellow diagonal stripes between the rank stars (see Table 10); and light blue MP officers' aiguillettes on the left shoulder. The Polish-style cap peak trim, and the white piping to the collar and shoulder straps, are non-regulation. (Eugen Pinak Collection)

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An unidentified second lieutenant of the 1st 'Maksym Zalisniak' Cav Regt; one of the oldest Ukrainian regiments, this was named after an 18th-century Zaporizhian Cossack. He wears an M1920 peaked cap with brick-red Cavalry Division band, and the yellow regimental piping introduced in 1921. The German-style tunic favoured by the regiment likewise has brick-red patches on the standing collar, and 1st Regt yellow piping on the rectangular shoulder straps, which also bear an unofficial regimental numeral. (Eugen Pinak Collection)

22 Apr 1919, but shortages meant that greenish-brown was usually worn. The *mazepunka* peaked field cap had the turned-up earflaps cut open in a V-shape at the front to reveal the cockade. The 6-button tunic had a stand-and-fall collar, and external pleated breast and waist pockets with pentangular buttoned flaps. Breeches were worn with black riding boots, or leather leggings and black ankle boots for officers, and puttees for enlisted ranks. All ranks wore zigzag *zubchatka* branch-colour collar patches, and gold or silver braid cuff rank bars on branch-colour backing. Rank titles and branch colours varied from the UNR model. A soft-crowned peaked service cap with branch-colour band and a cockade replaced the field cap from 18 Aug 1919. Initially the ChUHA wore UHA uniforms with a red rosette under the cap cockade; the abolition of collar branch and cuff rank insignia and introduction of Red Army insignia on 28 Feb and 2 Mar 1920 caused widespread discontent.

PLATE COMMENTARIES

A: COMMANDERS

A1: *Pierwsy Marzałek Polski* Józef Piłsudski; Lipsk, September 1920

Here Piłsudski wears the M1915 green-collared, field-grey greatcoat and the tunic of the Austrian-raised Polish Legions, with closely tailored black overall trousers. The *maciejowka* cap has an M1914 silver uncrowned eagle badge, with pointed wings and the letter 'S' on the shield. Promoted first marshal on 19 Mar 1920, Piłsudski first wore his 'pike-grey' uniform with full insignia on 15 Nov 1920 when he received his marshal's mace.

A2: *Komanduyushchiy frontom* Mikhail Tukhachevsky, Red Army; Moscow, April 1920

Despite his defeat at Warsaw this 27-year-old general earned considerable prestige, and Stalin's envy would lead to his execution on 12 June 1937. Here he wears the M1919 uniform, with the second-pattern *budenovka* and a greatcoat in 'Russian khaki', with dark khaki-green facings at collar, cuffs and waist-pocket flaps. The cap star, piping, and collar and breast tabs are in infantry crimson ('raspberry-red'). He displays the M1919 scarlet rank insignia of a star and four diamonds (one obscured at this angle) on his left sleeve only, and on his breast the M1918 Red Army membership badge on a rosette. His holstered revolver is an M1895 Mosin-Nagant.

A3: *Polkovnyk* Volodymyr Salskyi, Ukrainian Minister of War, June 1920

Salskyi served as war minister from 5 Nov 1919 to 10 Feb 1921, being promoted major-general on 5 Oct 1920. The cap of his M1919 service uniform has white piping at the crown seam and both edges of the crimson branch-colour band; twisted silver button-colour wire cords; and a gold and blue M1918 cockade, with a central gold trident. The unpiped tunic bears the collar patches of his rank; and on the left sleeve a large red trident badge as introduced on 30 Mar 1920. His blue officers' breeches have crimson piping.

B: FIRST BATTLES, FEBRUARY–MAY 1919

B1: *Generał-porucznik* Stanisław Szeptycki, 1st Lithuanian-Belarusian Division, Polish Army; Grodno, April 1919

Szeptycki wears M1917 PSZ general officers' uniform, displaying his rank by silver braid on dark red collar patches, and two gold stars and a crown on plaited silver-cord trefoil shoulder straps with red-on-white backing. Note too the red piping on the stand-and-fall collar, cuffs, front edge and all four pocket flaps of the tunic, and the seam-piping flanked by double stripes on his breeches. Above the silver braid chinstrap his cap eagle and rosette are non-regulation gold. Again, the sidearm is a Russian M1895 Mosin-Nagant revolver.

B2: *Otdelyonniy komandir,* 3rd Siedlec Revolutionary Infantry Regiment, Red Army; Lida, April 1919

This Polish communist in the Western Rifle Div, defeated at Lida during the Polish Vilnius

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Table 8: Polish Army rank insignia, 1 November 1919–7 December 1925

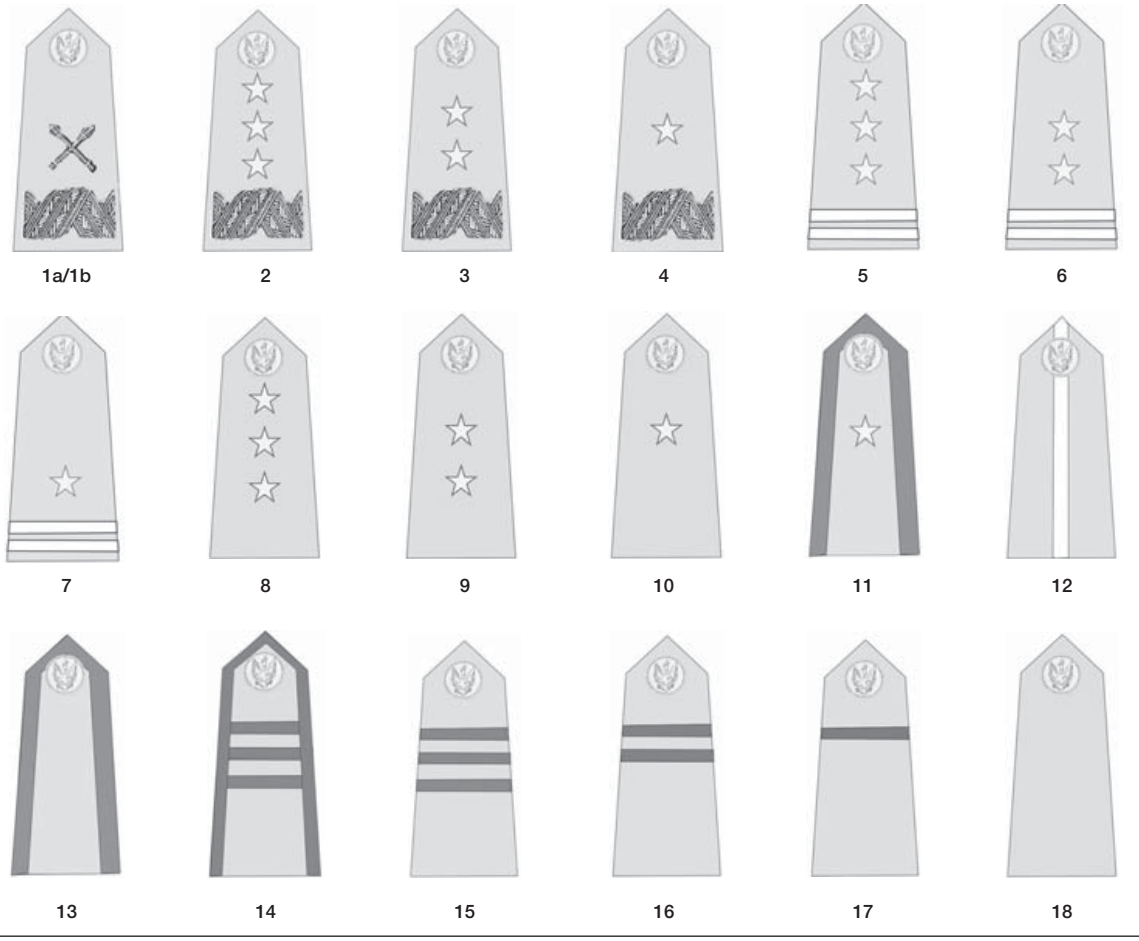

Table 8. Rank insignia were worn on the khaki (1a: greyish light blue) shoulder straps of the M1919 service and field uniforms, with M1919 silver-plated eagle buttons. Unit numbers and monograms (straps 5–18) were worn at the base of the service shoulder straps, but not on field straps illustrated here.

General officers (*Generałowie*), 1–4: 3–1 stars (1: crossed maces with gold heads) above triple zigzag embroidery, all in silver wire.
Field officers (*Oficerowie sztabowi*), 5–7: 3–1 stars above two bars, all in silver wire.
Subaltern officers (*Oficerowie młodszi*), 8–10: 3–1 silver wire stars.
Non-commissioned officers (*Podoficerowie*), 11–16: 3–2 x 50mm red woollen horizontal rank bars and shoulder-strap edging (11, 13: 1cm edging); silver braid star, or 1cm silver braid vertical bar.
Privates (*Szeregowcy*), 17–18: 1 or no 50mm red woollen horizontal rank bar.

Key:
1a. *Pierwsy Marzałek Polski* (Senior Field Marshal – Józef Piłsudski, 19 Mar 1920–12 May 1935)
1b. *Marzałek Polski* (Field Marshal) – rank only instituted 13 Apr 1923
2. *Generał broni* (General)
3. *Generał-porucznik* (LtGen)
4. *Generał-podporucznik* (MajGen) – *Urzędnik wojskowy klase V* (Admin)
5. *Pułkownik* (Col) – *Urzędnik wojskowy klase VI* (Admin); *Dziekan generalny* (Chaplains)
6. *Podpułkownik* (LtCol) – *Urzędnik wojskowy klase VII* (Admin); *Dziekan frontu* (Chaplains)
7. *Major* (Maj) – *Urzędnik wojskowy klase VIII* (Admin); *Proboszcz dywizji* (Chaplains)
8. *Kapitan* (Capt) – *Rotmistrz* (Cavalry); *Urzędnik wojskowy klase IX* (Admin); *Kapelan pułku, Kapelan szpitala* (Chaplains)
9. *Porucznik* (Lt) – *Urzędnik wojskowy klase X* (Admin)
10. *Podporucznik* (2nd Lt) – *Urzędnik wojskowy klase XI* (Admin)
11. *Chorąży* (Warrant Officer)
12. *Podchorąży* (Officer Cadet)
13. *Sierżant sztabowy* (Colour Sgt) – *Wachmistrz sztabowy* (Cavalry Staff Sgt)
14. *Sierżant* (Sgt) – *Wachmistrz* (Cavalry).
15. *Plutonowy* (Lance-Sgt)
16. *Kapral* (Cpl)
17. *Starszy szeregowiec* (Lance-Cpl) – *Starszy szwolezer* (Lt Horse), *Starszy ułan* (Lancers), *Starszy strzelec* (Mtd Rifles), *Bombarder* (Artillery)
18. *Szeregowiec* (Private) – *Szwolezer* (Lt Horse), *Ułan* (Lancers), *Strzelec* (Mtd Rifles), *Kanonier* (Artillery)

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offensive, is wearing the Tsarist M1910 winter cap with an M1918 variant red star badge, and the brownish-grey enlisted ranks' greatcoat. On the left sleeve is a yellow-on-black MG badge, above the M1919 insignia of his corporal-equivalent rank. His equipment is a waistbelt with a single ammunition pouch for his M1891 Mosin-Nagant rifle, and a slung M1909 waterbottle and tin bowl combination.

B3: *Kapral,* 4th Lancer Regiment, Polish Army; Vilnius, April 1919

Polish forces previously in Russian service provided most of the lancer regiments. This junior NCO in the Belina Cavalry Group wears a greenish-grey peaked cap with M1917 eagle badge and light blue regimental band. His slightly contrasting M1917 PSZ light grey lancer tunic is piped light blue around the collar (note zigzag lace at front and top), cuffs, plastron, pocket flaps and scalloped 'duck's-foot' shoulder straps. The latter show two silver rank bars above a light blue regimental numeral. His dark blue breeches also show double stripes in regimental colour. He carries a Russian M1909 sabre, an M1891 Mosin-Nagant 'dragoon' carbine, and two triple Polish-made German M1909 ammunition pouches.

C: BELARUS, JULY–OCTOBER 1919

C1: *Starszy strzelec,* 4th Greater Poland Rifle Regiment, Polish Army; Babruysk, August 1919

This lance-corporal from the 1st Greater Poland Div occupying Babruysk wears a *rogatywka* with dark red piping at the top of the band and vertically up all four seams, meeting in a cross on the crown; it bears the M1919 eagle and, offset left, a greenish-grey braid trefoil with one dark red rank knot. The tunic has dark red piping round the stand-and-fall collar, cuffs, breast pockets and flaps, waist-pocket flaps, and down the front edge. The collar bears stripes in national colours and silver regimental numerals, and his single silver rank chevrons butt down against the cuff piping. He displays the German M1916 machine-gunner's left-sleeve badge, and has a blackened German belt with M1910 pouches, bayonet, and hooked-on wirecutters. Slung round his body are an M1917 gasmask container, M1908 MG hauling straps, and his M1898 rifle based on the German Mauser Karabiner 98b. He is carrying MG ammunition-belt boxes.

C2: *Plutonowy,* 3rd Legion Infantry Regiment, Polish Army; Minsk, August 1919

This section commander is from the 2nd Legion Infantry Div occupying Minsk, the furthest Polish advance in Belarus. He wears the M1917 PSZ uniform, with a *maciejowka* piped in infantry dark red. The tunic shows single-zigzag collar braid, and three silver rank bars and a red regimental numeral on red-piped, square-cut shoulder straps; note too the three-flamed bomb badge of an assault company on the left sleeve. He has Austro-Hungarian double ammunition pouches; support straps; backpack with rolled greatcoat, messtin, and breadbag; bayonet with knot, and entrenching tool. His weapons are an M1895 8mm Mannlicher rifle and a German M1916 stick-grenade.

C3: *Komandir polka,* 20th Artillery Regiment, Red Army; Minsk, August 1919

This regimental commander from 17th Rifle Div wears an M1908 peaked cap with M1918 star; his *French* shows a Tsarist gold-on-black artillery badge above the M1919 rank insignia on his left sleeve, the latter in non-standard gold wire on a red cloth patch. The M1918 Red Army badge on his left breast is the commanders' gilded version. He wears *sharovari* and black riding boots with knee caps. The M1912 waistbelt has Tsarist officers' double braces; it supports his M1895 revolver with leather strap neck lanyard.

D: THE POLISH ADVANCE EASTWARDS, JANUARY–APRIL 1920

D1: *Porucznik,* 1st Tank Regiment, Polish Army; Daugavpils, January 1920

The M1918 uniform of Haller's Army, in French horizon-blue, is represented by this lieutenant tank-platoon commander in the unit's 2nd Company. The *rogatywka* has a gold lace button-colour chinstrap, and red branch-colour piping at the crown, vertical seams and top edge of the band; below the M1918 eagle are two gold rank bars across an oval blue patch. The tunic has red French-type collar patches with two white pipings and gold regimental numerals; the shoulder straps bear a gold eagle badge on a red oval; on the cuffs are two gold rank bars, and on the left sleeve the armoured troops' badge of a gilt metal dragon on a red oval. He has dismounted officers' black laced field boots, a French 8mm M1892 revolver, and an M1915 Adrian dark grey-blue steel helmet with an eagle plate painted non-regulation white.

D2: *Starszy szeregowiec,* 35th Infantry Regiment, Polish Army; Mazyr, March 1920

This lance-corporal from the 9th Infantry Div wears Polish M1919 khaki ('grey-green-brown') uniform with an M1915 Adrian helmet painted dark khaki. His enlisted ranks' tunic has single-zigzag braid on dark blue infantry collar patches, piped yellow at the scalloped rear edge; a single dark red shoulder-strap rank bar; and on the left sleeve the M1917 silver MG company badge – a clip of five splayed cartridges on a dark blue patch. His brown leather equipment comprises waistbelt and support straps for triple pouches for the Polish Kar 98b, a frogged bayonet and an entrenching tool; strapped to his backpack are the rolled greatcoat and messtin, and slung to his left hip is a grey canvas breadbag.

D3: *Chetar,* 1st Regiment, Red Ukrainian Galician Army; Vinnytsia, February 1920

This second lieutenant company commander is wearing the UHA M1919 field uniform in greenish-brown khaki, with brown leather infantry leggings. On joining the ChUHA he has reluctantly placed a red rosette behind his M1918 trident cap cockade, and removed his collar and cuff rank insignia. His Russian belt supports an Austro-Hungarian M1898 8mm Gasser und Rast revolver and a binocular case.

E: THE KYIV OFFENSIVE, APRIL–MAY 1920

E1: *Komandir roty,* 54th Rifle Regiment, Red Army; Zhytomyr, April 1920

This rifle company commander from 25th Rifle Div defending Zhytomyr wears the M1919 service uniform of *budenovka*, Tsarist field shirt, and *sharovari* with marching boots. The crimson branch colour is displayed in the cap-badge backing star and buttons, the collar patches and breast tabs. On the left sleeve only he displays rank insignia, below an M1920 infantry branch badge. He has a Mauser C96 'broomhandle' pistol in a leather holster, and a Tsarist M1889 mapcase.

E2: *Roiovyi,* 17th Rifle Brigade, UNR Army; Zhytomyr, April 1920

This corporal section commander from 6th Rifle Div (the 'Sich' title was awarded later) is wearing complete British-supplied M1902 khaki service dress, with M1915 Mk 1 'Brodie' helmet,

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Table 9: Red Army rank insignia, 16 January 1919–30 January 1922

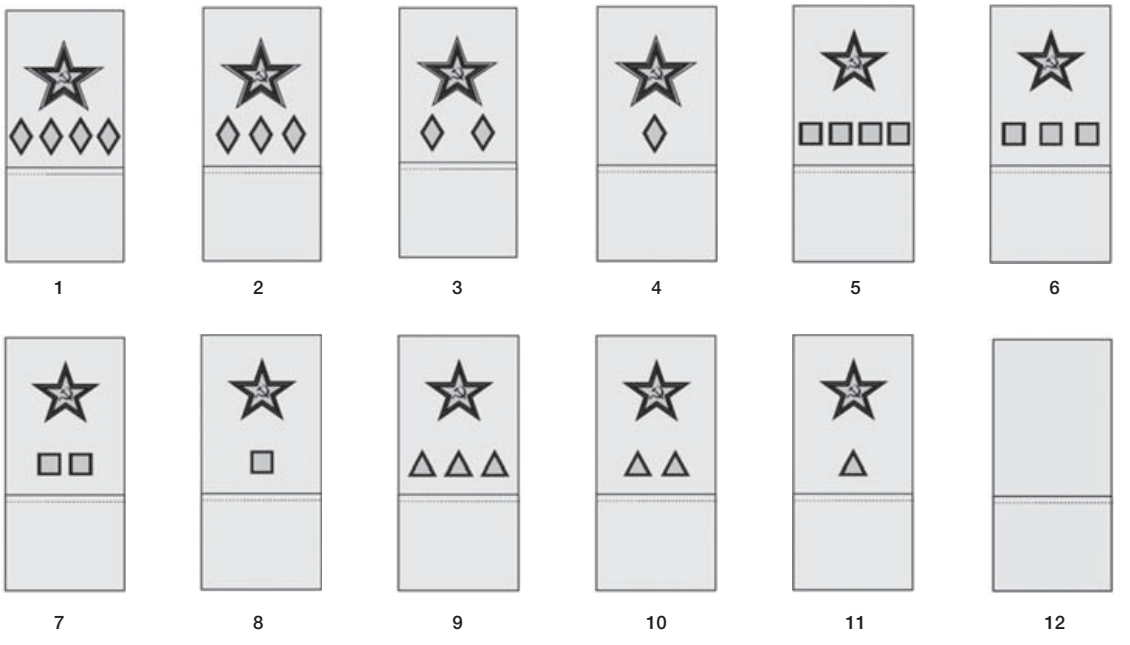

Table 9. Commanders (*Komandiri*) wore a scarlet star with black inset piping and a hammer-and-sickle, and scarlet rank badges with black inset piping, above the left cuff of all uniform garments.

General-officer equivalent commanders, 1-4: 145mm-diameter star with double inset piping, and 4–1x 35mm x 30mm diamonds.
Field- and subaltern-officer equivalent commanders, 5-8: 110mm-diameter star with single inset piping, and 4–1x 30mm squares.
Non-commissioned equivalent commanders, 9-11: 110mm-diameter star with single inset piping, and 3–1x 40mm triangles.
Private, 12: no insignia.

Key:
Rank-titles 16 January 1919: / = standard abbreviations; translations = equivalent ranks; [ ] = additional titles introduced 24 June 1920:
1. *Komanduyushchiy frontom / Komfronta* (C-in-C Front – General)
2. *Komanduyushchiy armiey / Komandarm* (C-in-C Army – LtGen); [*Pomoshchnik komanduyushchego armiey / Pomkomandarm* (Deputy C-in-C Army)]
3. *Nachal'nik Divizii / Nachdiv* (Divisional Commander – MajGen)
4. *Komandir brigady / Kombrig* (Brigade Cdr – Brig); [*Komandir strelkovoy brigady* (Rifle Bde Cdr), *Komandir kavaleriyskoy brigady* (Cav Bde Cdr)]
5. *Komandir polka / Kompolka* (Regimental Cdr – Col); [*Komandir otdel'nogo batal'ona* (Independent Bn Cdr)]
6. *Komandir batal'ona / Kombat* (Battalion Cdr – Maj); [*Pomoshchnik komandira polka / Pomkompolka* (Deputy Regt Cdr); *Komandir otdel'noy roty* (Independent Company Cdr)]
7. *Komandir roty / Komroty* (Co Cdr – Capt); [*Komandir eskadrona / Komesk* (Cav Sqn Cdr); *Pomoshchnik komandira roty / Pomkomroty* (Deputy Co Cdr); *Pomoshchnik komandira eskadrona / Pomkomesk* (Deputy Cav Sqn Cdr)]
8. *Komandir vzvoda / Komvzvoda* (Platoon Cdr – Lt)
9. *Starshina* (unit senior NCO – Co Sgt-Maj)
10. *Pomoshchnik komandira vzvoda / Pomkomvzvoda* (Deputy Ptn Cdr – Sgt)
11. *Otdelyonniy komandir* (Section Cdr – Cpl); [*Komandir otdeleniya / Komot*]
12. *Krasnoarmeyets* ('Red Army man' – Pte)

and Mills M1908 webbing equipment with M1914 lower pouches. His weapon is the British Lee-Enfield .303in SMLE with 18in M1907 bayonet. A black trident badge is painted on his helmet, and he displays the infantry blue left sleeve badge, as introduced from 30 July 1919. His M1920 infantry collar patches are the same colour; enlisted men often omitted these, or wore M1919 patches with rank studs instead of stars.

E3: *Major,* 7th Field Artillery Regiment, Polish Army; Kyiv, May 1920

This battalion commander from the 7th Div, entering Kyiv, wears the M1919 uniform. The rather shapeless peakless field cap has the silver metal star and bar identifying his rank, whilst the shoulder straps have a star and two bars. The greatcoat collar has green-and-black field artillery stripes; above it the tunic collar patches, in green with black rear piping, can just be seen. As a mounted officer he wears spurred riding boots; his 'Sam Browne' supports a holstered M1908 Parabellum pistol and an Austro-Hungarian M1917 khaki canvas mapcase, and he has a slung binocular case.

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Table 10: Rank insignia, Army of Ukrainian People's Republic, 30 March 1920–August 1924

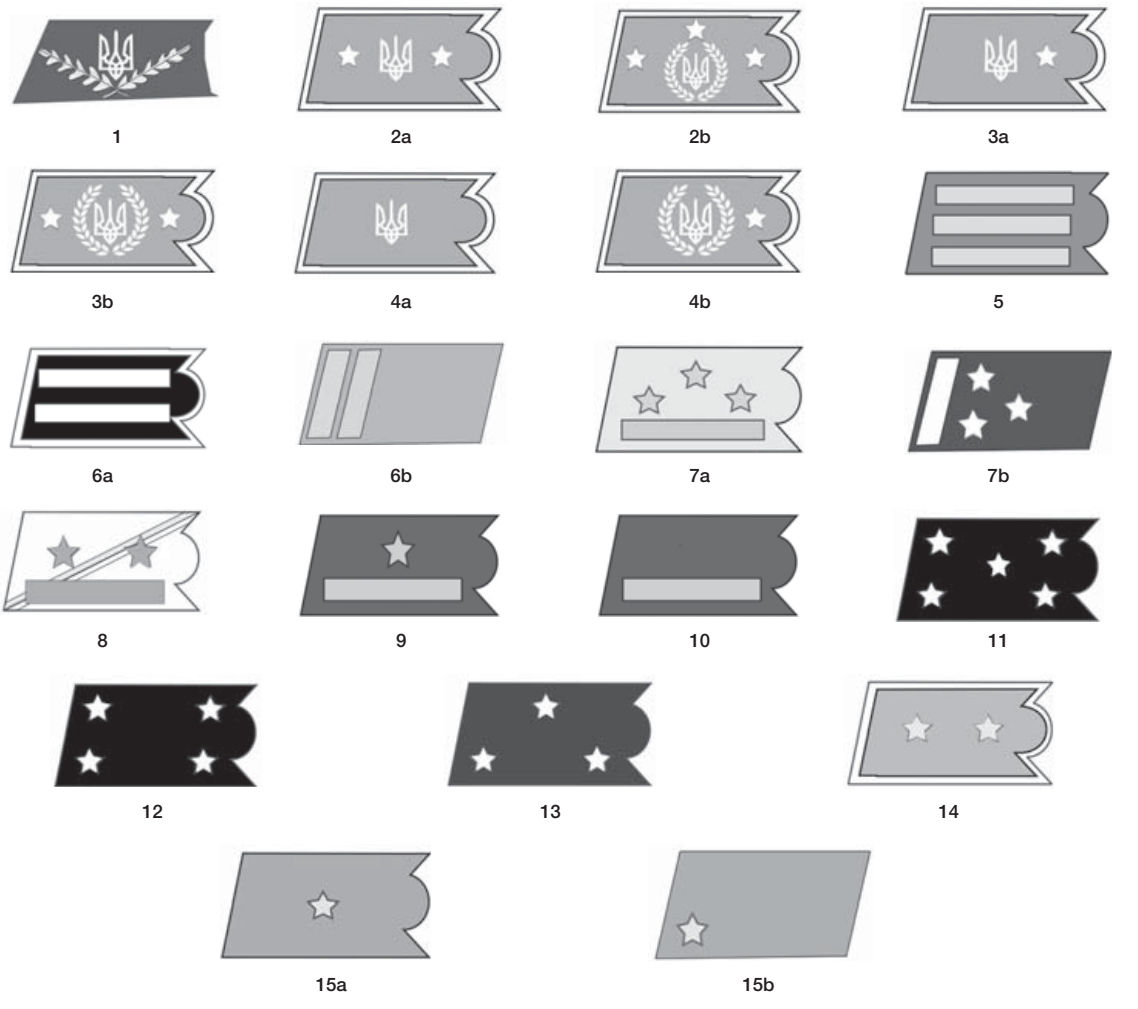

Table 10. All ranks except 1 wore rank insignia on branch-colour patches on the tunic collar.

Commander-in-Chief, 1: Gold wire trident and two foliate branches on khaki collar.
General officers (*Heneralna Starshina*), 30 March–15 June 1920, 2a–4a: Button-colour metal or embroidered trident and 2–0 stars.
General officers, 16 June 1920–August 1924, 2b–4b: Button-colour metal or embroidered trident in a laurel wreath, and 3–1 stars.
Field officers & equivalent (*Bulavna Starshina*), 5–6b: 2–3 button-colour lace or embroidered bars.
Subaltern officers & equivalent (*Molodsha Starshina*), 7a–10: 3–1 button-colour metal or embroidered stars, and 1 button-colour lace or embroidered bar.
Non-commissioned officers (*Pidstarshina*), 11–13: 5–3 button-colour metal or embroidered stars.
Privates & equivalent (*Sherengowy*), 14–16b: 2–1 button-colour metal or embroidered stars (14: button-colour lace edging).

Key (see Table 7, page 41 for button and branch patch colours):
1. *Holovnyi Otaman* (C-in-C – Symon Petliura)
2a/2b. *Heneral-Polkovnik* (General)
3a/3b. *Heneral-Poruchnyk* (LtGen)
4a/4b. *Heneral-Khorunzhyi* (MajGen)
5. *Polkovnyk* (Col – Infantry)
6a. *Pidpolkovnyk* (LtCol – General Staff)
6b. *Bulavny administrator* [13 Sept 1920, *Doradchy* (LtCol – military official attached to an Artillery unit)]
7a. *Sotnyk* (Capt – Cavalry)
7b. *Doradchy* [13 Sept 1920, *Administrator* (Capt – military official attached to a Supply unit)]
8. *Poruchnyk* (Lt – Military Police)
9. *Khorunzhyi* (2nd Lt – Air Service)
10. *Pidkhorunzhyi* (Sgt-Maj – Artillery)
11. *Bunchuzhnyi* (Staff Sgt – Medical Corps)
12. *Chotovyi* (Sgt – Technical Troops)
13. *Roiovyi* (Cpl – Supply)
14. *Yunak-hurtkovyi* (Lance-Cpl Officer Cadet, Military Academy – Infantry; other branches, *Hurtkovyi*)
15a. *Kozak* (Pte – Infantry)
15b. *Nemushtrovy Kozak* (Pte – military official in an Infantry unit)

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F: THE RED ARMY'S ADVANCE TO WARSAW, JUNE–AUGUST 1920

F1: *Pomoshchnik komandira vzvoda,* 55th 'Narva' Cavalry Regiment, Red Army; Grodno, July 1920

This regiment in 10th Kuban Cav Div wore light blue Hussar service uniforms, but standard khaki field uniforms. This deputy platoon commander wears a Tsarist peaked cap with a variant badge set on a gold sunburst. His cotton summer-weight *gymnastiorka* has patch breast pockets and (obscured here) slit waist pockets. Above the M1919 sleeve insignia of this sergeant-equivalent rank is a non-regulation cavalry badge: a gold horsehead in a horseshoe on crossed sabres, above a red star, all on a cavalry-blue backing. He has winter-weight wool breeches, and boots with brass Hussar rosettes; an M1909 ammunition pouch and an M1900 chest bandolier; an M1881/1909 officers' sword and an M1891 'dragoon' carbine.

F2: *Podporucznik pilot*, 15th (4th Greater Poland) Fighter Squadron, Polish Army; Lviv, August 1920

This second lieutenant wears the M1919 officers' khaki uniform with the M1919 dark blue *pilotka* cap; this has the usual M1919 eagle badge, but note the cruciform yellow crown piping. The yellow collar patches bear officers' double-zigzag braid, and the shoulder straps his rank star. The M1919 pilots' wings (introduced 4 Mar 1919) hang from a chain beneath the left collar, and a shallow silver gliding-eagle badge on yellow backing is sewn on the left upper sleeve. His sidearm is a Mauser C96 pistol in its wooden holster-stock, and he carries a soft leather flying helmet with goggles.

F3: *Starshina,* 22nd Reconnaissance Air Detachment, Red Army; Lviv, August 1920

This sergeant-major wears an M1914 rigid leather flying helmet with a Tsarist M1913 grey metal eagle badge, on which the Tsarist cockade has been replaced with an M1918 red star. A dark blue woollen field shirt is worn under an M1914 black leather flying jacket, with the black velvet collar piped red. Rank and branch sleeve insignia were not worn on this jacket, but a Red Air Force badge is pinned to his chest. Dark blue woollen breeches, piped red, are worn with black leather leggings and ankle boots.

G: BATTLE OF WARSAW, AUGUST 1920

G1: *Komanduyushchiy armiey* Semyon Budyonny, First Cavalry Army; Werba, 12 August

The *Konarmiya* commander wears a second-pattern *budenovka* with cavalry-blue star, and an M1919 field shirt with a turn-down collar (note its slanted cut) and branch-colour collar and chest tabs. He displays his M1918 Order of the Red Banner on a red rosette, and on his left sleeve the M1920 gold cavalry badge for Red Banner units (gold horseshoe, around sun and rays above green hill, with crossed sabres and red star), and M1919 rank insignia. His riding boots have knee caps, and his sidearm is an M1903 Browning pistol.

G2: *Kapitan,* 1st Battalion, 54th Border Rifles Infantry Regiment, Polish Army; Zadwórze, 17 August

At Zadwórze this battalion from 12th Inf Div fought to the last man against the Russian *Konarmiya*. This company commander wears a subaltern's M1919 field uniform; the *rogatywka* has silver piping and peak edging, the eagle badge with a regimental numeral on the shield, and three silver stars of rank, which are repeated on the tunic shoulder straps. Dark blue infantry collar patches with yellow rear edging bear officers' double-zigzag silver braid. He wears infantry officers' three-buckle leggings and ankle boots, and carries a mapcase, a German M1908 Parabellum pistol, and a stick-grenade.

G3: *General-porucznik* Frantiszek Latinik, Polish First Army; Radzymin, 14 August

The dogged defence of Radzymin roused the Poles to victory at Warsaw. Lieutenant-General Latinik wears the M1919 uniform, with triple-zigzag silver braid around the khaki band of his silver-piped *rogatywka*, below the stars on his shoulder straps, and around his cuffs. His dark blue collar patches with dark red rear piping bear triple-zigzag braid and a silver eagle, and his breeches have dark blue piping between double stripes; he also wears a general officer's silver service-dress aiguillettes. His decorations are the *Virtuti Militari* Silver Cross for gallantry, and, pinned to his pocket, the Silesia 1919 campaign cross.

H: FINAL BATTLES, AUGUST–OCTOBER 1920

H1: *Wachmistrz sztabowy,* 8th Lancer Regiment, Polish Army; Komarów, August

This senior NCO from 1st Cav Div wears the M1919 enlisted ranks' uniform but with officers' equipment. His plain, unpiped *rogatywka* has two M1920 dark red rank chevrons on the band below the badge. His tunic has unpiped dark red lancer collar patches with single-zigzag braid; the shoulder straps have dark red braid rank-edging, and his carbine marksman's lanyard is the same colour. He carries an M1917 cavalry officers' sabre with silver-and-red NCOs' fist-strap and knot, and a holstered Austro-Hungarian M1907 8mm Roth-Styr cavalry pistol.

H2: *Pomoshchnik komandira eskadrona,* 10th Kuban Cavalry Division, Red Army; River Niemen, September

This deputy squadron commander retreating from Polish forces wears Kuban Cossack field uniform. His cap is the black *kubanka* with a 'Kuban' red crown. The red field shirt has senior ranks' silver edging, as has the red *bashlyk* hood, here thrown back behind and so invisible. The khaki *kaftan* has a subaltern's two integral sets of 10 cartridge tubes on the chest; left-sleeve rank insignia; and the same M1919 cavalry sleeve badge as F1, though here the backing is cut square. His decorative Cossack belt supports an M1895 Mosin-Nagant revolver and an M1904 *kindzhal* dagger, and an M1904 *shashka* sabre is slung from his shoulder.

H3: *Krasnoarmeyets,* 58th Engineer Battalion, Red Army; Minsk, October

This 58th Rifle Div sapper defending Minsk wears the second-pattern M1919 *budenovka* with an Engineer-branch black star edged red. His M1919 field shirt has subdued khaki collar and chest tabs, almost hidden here by his slung coat-roll. Note the Tsarist sapper's sleeve badge of a yellow crossed pick and shovel on black; and the slit waist pocket of the *gymnastiorka*, for once visible here, as his equipment is limited to a single M1909 belt-pouch and a large canvas satchel. His weapon is a German M1898 Karabiner 98b rifle.

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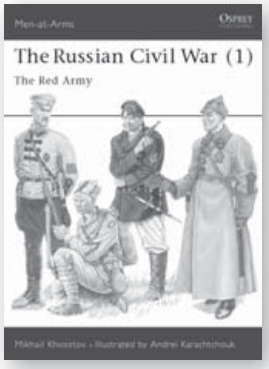

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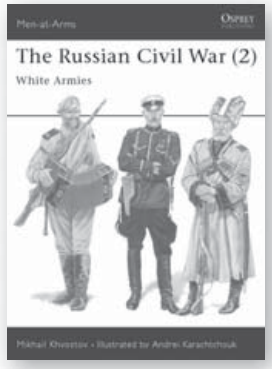

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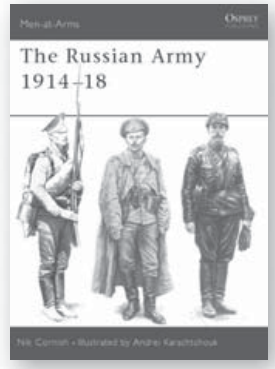

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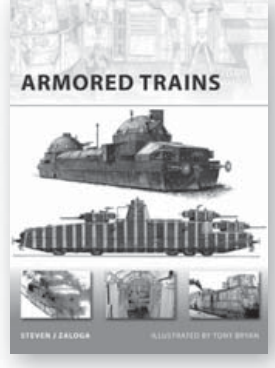

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For further information on Nigel Thomas or to contact him, please refer to his website nt-associates.com.

Author's note

Place names During the 20th century most Eastern European cities and towns were known by several names. To assist the reader in tracing the Russo-Polish conflict on a modern map, towns situated in present-day Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Russia and Lithuania are named in Polish, Belarusian, Ukrainian or Russian respectively. Towns in the borderlands of western Belarus and western Ukraine which were part of Poland in 1921–39 are first mentioned by the Polish name with the present name in brackets, and thereafter by the present name only, except where the Polish name forms part of a military title.
Tsarist Russia In this text, 'Tsarist' should be understood to refer to both the Russian Imperial Army (before 23 March 1917) and the successor Russian Republican Army (23 March–10 November 1917).

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The Publishers regret that they can enter into no correspondence upon this matter.

Abbreviations used in text and battle-order tables:

Armd	Armoured
Art	artillery
Bde	brigade
Bel	Belarusian language
Bty	artillery battery
Cav	cavalry
Co	company
Det	detachment
Div	division
Eng	engineer
Ger	German name
Inf	infantry
Leg	Legion
Lith	Lithuanian name
Lt	light
Mtn	mountain
Pol	Polish name
Ptn	platoon
Recce	reconnaissance
Regt	regt
Rus	Russian name
Sigs	signals
Sqn	squadron
Tech	technical
Ukr	Ukrainian name
Vol	Volunteer

Acronyms:

AH	Austro-Hungarian
BNA	Belarusian People's Army
BNR	Belarusian People's Republic
ChUHA	Red Ukrainian Galician Army
GP	Greater Poland
HA	Galician Army
LB	Lithuanian-Belarusian
MG	machine gun
MT	motor transport
NCO	non-commissioned officer
POW	Polish Military Organization
PSZ	Polish Armed Forces (*Ger,* Polnische Wehrmacht)
RKKA	Red Army of the RSFSR
RKKF	Red Navy of the RSFSR
RKKVF	Red Air Force of the RSFSR
RSFSR	Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic
SSR	Soviet Socialist Republic
UHA	Ukrainian Galician Army
UNR	Ukrainian People's Republic
WO	warrant officer
WP	Polish Army
ZOUNR	Western Region of Ukrainian People's Republic
ZUNR	Western Ukrainian People's Republic